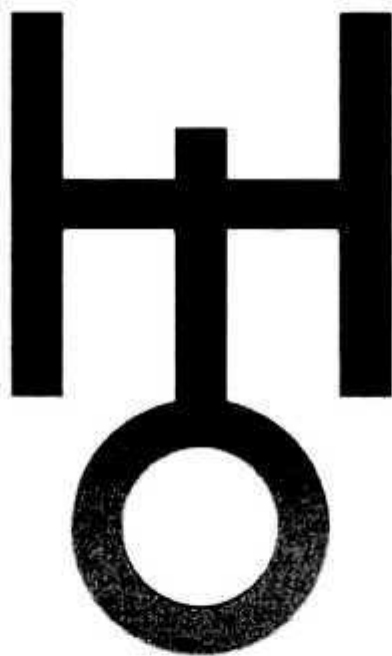


Alive and Well
with
URANUS



Transits of Self-Awakening

Bil Tierney

1999

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WHERE WILL LIGHTNING STRIKE NEXT?

"**Uranus [is]...a** difficult energy for anyone to take personal responsibility for, since Uranian outcomes seem so insane and ridiculous at times, often punctuated by jaw-dropping surprises.

—from Chapter One

"Uranus lightning strikes without **warning—zap!...**If we prefer a smoother, meandering stream of intuition, we'll have to wait instead for a major Neptune transit. Uranus is more a wild-eyed god whose intuitive power crackles with electrical vitality."

—from Uranus in the First House

"Did you know that mythological Uranus was Jupiter's grandpa? It's not too clear if they ever had any real family contact. Astrologically, however, Uranus and Jupiter share a lot in common. Uranus is a fiery kind of air planet, while Jupiter's an airy sort of fire planet. Both can get charged up with excitement, both think that small-mindedness is a big waste of time, and both need lots of elbow room to explore life's greater potential."

—from Uranus/Jupiter Transits

"Uranus can be a crazed planet, capable of erratic behavior in matters of the heart. We'll need to first look at our chart for natal clues regarding how much resilience and emotional fortitude we have before we start to boldly experiment in love's laboratory. Let's not forget the value of Uranian detachment and objectivity. Otherwise, some of us can fall hard for some person we just 'know' is perfect for us, only to **find** later that nobody gets to hang on to such perfection for long."

—from Uranus in the Seventh House

"Think of Neptune as a beautiful soap bubble, with its swirling colors and its ability to float effortlessly in the air. Then think of Uranus as a huge, sharp, gleaming straight pin suddenly coming out of nowhere to prick that iridescent **bubble—pop!** This is Uranus' basic role at this time: to burst our own self-created bubbles of illusion or those set up by our environment that lull us into a false sense of serenity, security, or complacency."

—from Uranus/Neptune Transits

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bil Tierney has been involved with astrology for over thirty-two years. As a full-time professional, he has lectured and given workshops at major astrological conferences throughout the United States and in Canada since the mid-1970s. He has a special interest in studying the birthchart from a practical, psychological level that also encourages spiritual growth. He is a longtime member of the Metropolitan Atlanta Astrological Society (MAAS), and has served as its newsletter/journal editor several times. **Bil's** work has also been published in astrological publications such as *Aspects* and *The Mercury Hour*. Other books he has written are *Dynamics of Aspect Analysis*, and the Llewellyn publications: *Twelve Faces of Saturn*, *Alive and Well with Neptune*, and *Alive and Well with Pluto*.

When Bil is not busy with client consultations, lecturing, tutoring, and writing articles and books, his other big passion is computers. Clients enjoy Bil's animated, warm, and easy-going style, and they are impressed with his skillful blend of the intuitive and the analytical. His humorous slant on life is appreciated as well. Readers enjoy his thorough, insightful approach to astrological topics.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to Edith Custer, a true Uranian ambassador of astrology, whose vision and humor have brought people together in love and hope throughout the years.

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And last, I wish to express my gratitude to my colleagues Donna Van Toen and Gloria Star, who read pre-publication copies of *Alive and Well with Uranus* and submitted their comments for the back cover.

Oh, and thanks, Uranus, for zapping me with your enlivening energy. You enabled me to brag about the wonderfully exciting force of self-awakening you really are!

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INTRODUCTION

OLD SKY GOD

Uranus, as Ouranos, was considered in Greek mythology to be the first of the sky **gods—deities** belonging to the heavenly **realms—although** he was never the superstar that more **human-like** Zeus became. The myth of this original sky god takes place in a distant time, long before the social drama of the gods and goddesses of Mount Olympus that we are most familiar with (and way before the creation of mortal humans). Uranus was symbolic of the cosmic mind-spirit energy needed to create life by interpenetrating the primal emotional-physical energies of Earth itself (personified by his mate, Gaia, who also symbolized the cosmic womb). More about his myth later. What needs to be emphasized here is that Uranus represents purer states of unfettered, abstract **ideation—the** pristine condition before any concept is challenged to materialize and face the limitations of tangible form. Uranus therefore depicts the divine mind and the unearthly world of archetypal ideas, echoing Plato's philosophy. (An archetypal idea of a microwave oven theoretically exists even before anyone gets to brainstorm and design one physically. In other

words, all that exists is first an unmanifest idea waiting for the right time to **emerge**—to literally be plucked from the ethers.)

When we keep creative ideas solely in our head, they can live indefinitely in an unconditional state. Yet once these ideas are applied and tested in the concrete world, where a sense of time and other earthly limitations are imposed, such ideas are no longer sheltered by the "heavenly realms," i.e., our inner world. Our thoughts start to flesh out in ways that may either expose how impractical they really are—which can be very disillusioning—or how brilliantly they can be executed in the "real" world if worked on a bit more (something Saturn takes charge of). Even when these ideas materialize successfully, Uranus still "knows" that much has been lost in the translation, because the world of matter is relatively dull, dumb, and slow compared to the astonishing light-filled universe that Uranus calls home. In addition, Uranus is afraid that exposure to the gross world of manifestation leaves its perfect ideas tainted by human emotion and desire, resulting in something inferior and full of flaws. This explains why true Uranians are never completely satisfied with their creations (although everyone else is amazed by them).

My approach to Uranus' transits won't be an abstract, metaphysical one, because I try to bring this planet's energy down to the level of our own experience as much as possible without trivializing what Uranus means. This won't be an intellectually detached look at a planet that already seems too mentally removed from the routines of mundane living. Although Uranus, the archetype, may observe life from a safe distance rather than participate directly in worldly affairs, our challenge is to get our inner Uranus more fascinated with and thus more involved in what goes on in our personal lives. We do that by learning more about this Outer Planet's psychology and by becoming more willing to adopt certain Uranian values while still retaining many of our very human traits. It's not easy to embrace Uranus, but we need to be more open to this experience and willingly take risks in the name of self-awakening.

THE NAME GAME

TO demonstrate how Uranus symbolizes individualistic and sometimes contrary thinking, note that its name can be pronounced in several ways. Two of those ways are somewhat embarrassing to people who find in them distasteful connotations, even though these are the pronunciations preferred by astronomers and most used by stand-up comedians and the general public as well. However, one workaround (which I don't use since I instead side in with the astronomers) is to call this **planet** Ur-RAH-nus, as if to give it an air of **sophistication**—**although** that sounds a bit affected to some ears (and remember, we're dealing with a planet known for enjoying words and concepts that have "shock value"). Still, you can't be accused of sounding too rude when you let "Ur-RAH-nus" trickle **off** your tongue! In fact, you sound like you know something the rest of us don't know. Therefore, be prepared to hear this planet pronounced this way at many an astrology conference. But there's even another option that instantly conveys to listeners that you probably have a scholastic background (or that maybe you've got a superiority complex), and that's when you call this planet "**OOR-ron-noose**"—**supposedly** just like the ancient Greeks did.

How TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is strictly about transiting Uranus contacting various factors in our birth chart. Let's say you just discovered that you are having transiting Uranus square your Sun (and to confirm it, you're probably already feeling possessed of an excitable energy and a strange sense of anticipation, telling you something different may indeed be unfolding for you at this time in your life, something that possibly may shake up your familiar life patterns). Well, you'll obviously need to read what I've suggested this transit could mean in Chapter Ten.

But in that same chapter you may also wish to read about transiting Uranus going through the Fifth House (since the Sun and the Fifth, along with the sign Leo, are manifestations of the

same life **principle**—**Principle Five** in this instance; they thus all share similar themes). There may be a few comments I've made about Uranus passing through the Fifth that will make even more sense to you than some of the Uranus/Sun material. You also may want to think about your natal Uranus house position and read what I've said about this planet's transit of that same house; this could give you further insights into some of your natal issues. And please read various planet-to-planet transits to gain an extra understanding of your natal aspects involving those same planets.

Also realize that not all of what I've stated about any transit is supposed to fit your current life pattern to a tee. It would be very rare if this happened. Transits can have unlimited ways of manifesting for us, because our psyche is immensely fertile and boundlessly creative when it comes to finding suitable, meaningful circumstantial affairs that mirror our internal self at any particular point in our lives. No astrologer can write a book tapping into each and every scenario possible. It's actually the general tone of each Uranus transit that I wish to convey, rather than trying to achieve a high score on accurately predicting trends and events. Keeping all the above in mind should help you enjoy this book very much and hopefully put what I've said to best use.

MERCURY AND VENUS TIMES TWO

In case you haven't read my book *Twelve Faces of Saturn*,¹ you may think that references in Chapter Eight to "air Mercury" mean Mercury in any air sign. Actually, as Mercury rules two signs—**Gemini** and **Virgo**—its airy side is linked to how Gemini processes experience, while its earthier face belongs to Virgo (see Chapter Eleven). I cover the transit of Uranus to both air Mercury and earth Mercury in separate chapters to show how differently these two facets of Mercury react to life, regardless of what element/sign our natal Mercury actually is in. A Pisces Mercury can therefore respond according to either its air or its earth potential, since Mercury is capable of expressing both

modes. It would be interesting in this instance to figure out whether Pisces would relate more easily to Mercury's earthy or airy quality; a case could be made here for both sides of the Mercury profile.

The same goes for **Venus—ruler** of Taurus and Libra (again, an earthy Venus and airy Venus work together to fully define the Venus **principle**—see Chapters Seven and Twelve, respectively). Some transits readily evoke the air side of Venus more than others; some natal house positions favor Venus' earthy side more (such as Venus in the Second; yet if that Venus happens to be in Libra, it's an interpretational toss up). What's most important to keep in mind is that we probably need to be (and actually are) doing both sides of Mercury and Venus to get a fuller picture of how these planets operate and what they can do to enhance our growth. So please don't get too hung up wondering if you're in an air Venus or earth Mercury mode when an Outer Planet is making a major transit to these natal planets (especially with Neptune, a planet that defies categories and clear-cut definitions).

FUNNY BONE

I'm a firm believer in the teaching power of humor. I certainly don't think the world is one big cosmic joke, but it sure can seem to be quite an odd and funny place in which to evolve. I wouldn't be me if I didn't bring a gently irreverent slant on life into my writings. And I like to think the Cosmos has a healthy sense of humor as well. (After all, Divine **Intelligence**—probably with the help of **Uranus**—**did** create the platypus!)

Although I probably won't offend anyone, I still ask that readers take some of my comic remarks in the playful way in which they were intended. We sometimes get too long-faced and holy about astrology, especially those of us seeking perfection on the spiritual track. Remember that there's a planet revered for its philosophical wisdom and broad understanding that is also known for enjoying a good belly **laugh**—**Jupiter** (and it's certainly got the belly for it). While I won't have you roaring in the aisles, you may find yourself grinning from time to time. Humor that

has something relevant to say about our life condition contributes to the joy of learning **astrology**—**always** a fascinating but nonetheless very human subject.

Some planets are easier to poke fun at than others. Uranus is a breeze because without this planet there'd be no living theater of the absurd! With Uranus it's easy to come up with colorful and unusual commentaries about life because this planet supports outrageous, brash viewpoints. What often makes humor work is how it exaggerates an evident truth about human nature and goes as far with it as it can to draw plenty of laughs from the **crowd**—**which** is probably why humor is *not* associated with Saturn. Although leave it to Saturn to convince some of its devotees that real humor can still be "dry." Well, yes, and I suppose it can be flat as a tire as well. Anyway, Jupiter's surely not buying that line of thinking.

I'm glad to see that other astrologers have been fine-tuning their astro-humor for years. Let me just mention one of the best: Kim Rogers-Gallagher, a gal who has done her **darndest** to take the starch out of astrology (keep it up, **ole** wise Uranus-inspired Sag). You can read her witty insights in her entertaining *Astrology for the Light Side of the Brain* and in her equally fun *Astrology for the Light Side of the Future*.²

THAT OLD MYTH REVISITED

Ouranos was a “**ready-for-primal-time**” god in Greek mythology who wasn't quite portrayed in easily identifiable human terms, unlike Mars or Jupiter (two archetypes we still run into at soccer games). Let's explore the Ouranos myth a little to get a better feeling for the psychology of this planet (and I'll do as the Romans did and just call him **Uranus**—**and** I ain't saying which embarrassing pronunciation I prefer). From the moment of his debut, Uranus was a god associated with the sky above, the heavenly expanse. He emerged from the womb of the great primal mother Gaia, who herself was born out of that hard-to-define cosmological state called **Chaos**—**let's** just say this was sometime long before the Universe took on differentiated physical form. Gaia

personified matter and Earth itself (she thus symbolizes that which we affectionately call "Mother Nature"). Uranus rather quickly became her consort (just as the sky and the **land—the** celestial and the **terrestrial—appear** to merge together in partnership at some point).

It seems that the myth involving Uranus is not too rich in details describing his personality. Already it's a clue that this god represents something more impersonal about existence, something that's not very human or accessible in expression. He's not one to instinctively touch the ground we walk on. He's more an abstract force than he is a familiar identity we can relate to. If anything, he's a lonely, tragic figure compared to many of those more colorful soap-opera stars later associated with the comings and goings on Mount Olympus! However, he did mate with Gaia, and from their union was born an assortment of strange progeny.

Still, how **nice—we** innocently **assume—for** Uranus to hopefully have the humanizing opportunity to become a somewhat more earthly daddy. Yet, unpredictably, he reacted adversely to his kids right from the start. And that's partly because, much to his surprise and dismay, he sired offspring that were **freakish—**especially the three Hecatoncheires (giants with fifty heads and a hundred hands each) and the three Cyclopes (also gigantic and, at least to Uranus, oafish and hideous-looking. Interestingly, their TV wrestler-sounding **names—Arges** the "Thunderbolt," Brontes the "Thunderer," and Steropes the "**Lightning-Hurler**"—all confirm that they indeed were their father's turbulent sons). Yet considering how well astrologers would say their nicknames now distinctly apply to him, Uranus was obviously in some sort of major denial at the time, projecting all that wildness and weirdness onto his boys. Uranus also fathered the relatively normal-looking but very earthy Titans (a little rough around the edges), who also had disruptive, quarrelsome energies. It seems there was bad blood shared between this emotionally-distant parent and each child. But heck, Daddy Uranus surely didn't go out of his way to make himself lovable.

It seems that in sky god Uranus' aloof, self-absorbed world of creative abstractions, only the ideal version of whatever his

divine mind designed was deemed perfect and therefore acceptable to him, not the disappointing concrete manifestations of that ideal. This is forever a problem with the Uranus **archetype**—its strong disgust and discontent with any earthly form that is flawed. Once an idea becomes **real**—is made **tangible**—it loses its special status and thus its appeal. Uranian detachment is born of this as is, in this father's case, the shunning of one's commitment to parenthood (with Uranus in disbelief that these children could be the byproducts of his mind). Part of the reason mythic Uranus was so turned off could be that Gaia herself, at least in these first attempts at birthing, was new to this and had not mastered the refinement of matter essential to producing harmony and beauty. Similarly, early forms of life on Earth may not have been all that pretty to look at, seeming to resemble instead evolution's failed experiments.

Now, if all this was the extent of the family **dilemma**—that Uranus created a wall of emotional distance from his "ugly" children and that they in turn suffered from getting his cold shoulder—things would be bad enough. After all, maybe he himself was scarred because he never had a dad to role-model for him the positive aspects of fathering. Luckily, Gaia had no trouble emotionally bonding with her children and allowing herself to stay in touch with her maternal feelings. She'd never think of rejecting them. But Uranus, unable to cope, decided he couldn't face these towering monstrosities one more day, and so he coldly shoved them deeply into Gaia's womb **which**—because she is Earth personified—actually turned out to be Tartarus, the lowest level of the darkest bowels in Hades, the Underworld; there they remained imprisoned and totally cut off from their nurturing connection to their mother. But all that Uranus cared about was that these creepy-looking kids were out of his sight for good! The Titans were spared this fate, but who could say for how long?

As perhaps only a powerful primal mothering force could, Gaia intensely grieved to the point of rage and revenge (obviously, her pleading for the return of her children meant nothing to "off-in-his-head-somewhere" **Uranus**—he probably dismissed her

emotional state as needless hysteria, which likely further infuriated her). Yet one day she woke up feeling rotten, smelled the coffee, and thought, “**Why** in Hades should I continue to give birth to babies just to have this cold-hearted tyrant make them disappear as if they never even existed, and all because they turn out a little big for their age? No more of this!” The time for taking drastic action was near. Her youngest-born Titan, Cronus (it's "Mr. Saturn" on his business cards) sought to avenge his mother's mistreatment and the sad, unjust fate of his captive siblings. Leave it to Saturn to take full responsibility for the amending of any grievous wrong. This horrible situation simply could not go on.

NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH

But how to go about doing it? His was a most serious mission, leaving no room for failure, but at least Cronus had a reputation for being crafty and ambitious. He wouldn't chicken out. His mom, probably out of desperation, came up with a daring solution: her plan was to hide her son and have him wait in ambush. Cronus knew just what weapon to have on him when the moment to strike was right. And as clueless Uranus began to lay upon seething Gaia that night, Cronus jumped out of hiding and, brandishing a sharpened sickle in his left hand, swiftly castrated his father! Although the myth tells us nothing about Uranus' immediate reaction, it does say he was badly wounded. We should assume he was stunned and in severe shock. However, once drops of Uranus' blood from his severed genitals fell on Gaia, they created the snake-haired **Furies**—**finally**, some raw, repressed, hostile emotion spilling out! These three Furies went on in Greek myth to develop a reputation as formidable goddesses of vendettas and "payback" time.

Cronus, probably in a frenzied state, tossed those genitals out into the sea. Uranus would never see them again nor feel the creative vitality he once had. His days of willful idealization having the power to suppress physical embodiment were over, since the source of his potency was now destroyed. Actually, transformed is

more the case. Those genitals (still filled with highly potent seed) energized the waters and created a regenerative foam from which sprung the very beautiful and very well-formed Aphrodite (Venus). How ironic that, once Uranus' creative juices were lost to him, what resulted was a being of rare loveliness. Of course, Aphrodite was an earthy archetype of beauty, and a lusty gal, and so maybe Uranus would have found fault with her, too. But then again, he might well have learned to better appreciate the beauty of human love and passion.

So, what happened to this **ole**, neutered god? It's not too **clear**—**did** he die or was he exiled to Tartarus, perhaps? It seems once his generative power was severely weakened, his story was abruptly **over**—**except** that his last dying or parting words may have been shocking ones: it's rumored he prophetically warned Cronus that someday a rebellious child of his would also overthrow him. Upon hearing this, a shaken Cronus must have thought that his old man was a disruptive force even unto the bitter end! Whatever his fate, this once-mighty sky god was now powerless to block Gaia's needs ever again.

Cronus then became the supreme ruler of Heaven and **Earth**—**was** he having his Saturn Return? He ushered in a Golden Age and made "time" essential to the order of life. From here on, material manifestation were seen as a good thing, offering security when well-organized. Everything clicked, with Nature and humankind now in harmony. Earthly existence was here to **stay**—**warts and all**—**and** ideal perfection was something to slowly work at rather than to try to instantly achieve by sheer will alone. Cronus wanted a world where nothing would remind him of his hated **father**—**thus**, his was an era of no more unexpected crises.

Uranus quietly faded away, and life on the planet marched on without missing him one **bit**—**that** is, until he reemerged in 1781, now as a new planet of our solar system (disrupting the old astronomical model, of course, which had given "last known planet" status to Saturn). Revolutions in the name of individual freedom versus monarchical oppression broke out around the

world during that period. Apparently, the Uranus archetype had time to evolve and transform for the better (in fact, now Ouranos would actually enjoy **“high-fiving”** his freaky kids). And ever since, Uranus has reclaimed its creative power and today is an exciting force that we're learning to better integrate into our nature, and consciously so.

THE MORAL OF THE STORY

In this mythic tale, amid its bizarre imagery, is a message for us about Uranus in our charts. This myth warns us that our inner Uranus, when unawakened to its true nature, represents an unattractive part of us that is cold, unfeeling, unsympathetic, and too mentally remote to be able to empathize with others. Although we can visualize our ideals on abstract mental levels, we run the risk of being disillusioned when our visions are brought down to earthier, human levels where imperfections abound. The myth also makes plain that we cannot afford to treat children in exclusively Uranian ways, devoid of emotional nurturing and physical touch. A hostile child can later grow up, turn around, and rebel against all we stand **for—with** great mutual alienation resulting (even tragic violence).

A **painful** psychological dilemma that today still has much power within the collective unconscious involves "the rejecting parent" archetype. Children with such parental experiences universally feel they can never live up to the impossible, unrealistic standards expected of them. The **punishment** for failure is that a mother or father creates as much distance from the child as possible. This tale also suggests how difficult it can be for a hard-core Uranian to cope with how things really are on the planet. Becoming remote and untouchable are not valid coping mechanisms—they're defensive retreats. We with powerful natal and transiting Uranus patterns will have to watch out for that. Well, there will be more to say about all this soon. Let's just begin this book and hope we all learn a lot about how to better handle our amazing Uranus transits!

NOTES

1. Bil Tierney, *Twelve Faces of Saturn*, Llewellyn Publications, St. Paul, MN, 1997.
2. Kim Rogers-Gallagher, *Astrology for the Light Side of the Brain*, ACS Publications, San Diego, CA, 1995, 242 pp.; *Astrology for the Light Side of the Future*, ACS Publications, San Diego, CA, 1998.

PART ONE

WAKE UP AND SMELL
THE FREEDOM

DON'T BLAME THE MESSENGER

SOME GOOD ADVICE

When we begin to study astrology, some of us may **unfortunately** get the impression that the Outer Planets, especially when transiting, are single-handedly the cause of the thorniest problems that we face in life (transiting Saturn gets labeled a nasty **troublemaker** as **well**). We might also suspect that actual planetary rays unfairly blast away at us, using mysterious forces to sometimes directly block even our best **intentions**—**and** that the basic purpose of astrology, then, is to learn how to always stay a couple of jumps ahead in outsmarting these tricky, security-threatening forces whenever possible. We simply stick to picking the "good" days to do certain desirable activities while we totally avoid, at all cost, taking action on the "bad" days. Such simplistic thinking reflects an older school of traditional astrology at play, one that puts a sense of fear and foreboding into our **hearts**—**only** now by exploiting Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto as the new "heavies" to worry about! Yet in olden times, Mars and Saturn were the perennial "bad boys," made to carry the shadows of "sin" and "evil" and their all-too-human consequences. Now, it seems, new celestial members with somewhat more frightening faces have joined the club.

Armed with this less enlightened attitude, some of us may not be as ready or willing to accept transits as symbolic reflections of conditions triggered within our psychological selves—probably because this is a less satisfying option, one that places more responsibility for our life's unfoldment on our shoulders in a manner that leaves us with few real outside enemies to conveniently blame. After all, it's so much easier to point the finger at a red and angry old Mars whipping up a fire storm in our chart while roughing up our Moon, which then "causes" an imbalance in our emotional chemistry—one that makes us the perpetrator or victim of aggression and violence. We could therefore justify our predicament by saying, "Hey, it wasn't my fault...it was that wicked square from Mars in my Twelfth that made everything spin out of control!"

Few astrologers still go along with this dated script: the idea that planets and zodiac signs solely represent good and bad external influences in the form of powerful energy fields that perhaps astronomers might one day discover and scientifically validate—hoping maybe then this could allow astrology to finally join the ranks of other true sciences. If so, according to this assumption, astrology would at last be more clearly understood and valued as "real," including the claim that "bad" transiting planets in "hard" angles in an already "difficult" chart are literally—not symbolically—responsible for the rotten days of our lives (and therefore, such transits are just as guilty of directly causing personal disaster as is lightning striking a house).

Even if such a mechanical approach to an apparently uncaring Cosmos holds some scientific truth, at what expense to our psyche? After all, we'd thus be admitting that we're trapped in an ongoing adversarial relationship with a cold-hearted solar system whose planets randomly besiege us—and all because we apparently were born on the "wrong" day or have dared to begin a project or a relationship at an "inauspicious" time! And so, it would appear that the cosmic forces at work don't care a whit if we're "just human" and can't help but to give in to our urges and impulses at times. We're still likely to be penalized by such

impersonal agents for taking action when our timing is off, as indicated by certain planets in tensional alignment.

Yet to adopt such an attitude about astrology could make us more fearful than ever of our birth chart patterns and their assumed power to make or break us. We'd feel ourselves to be easily targeted victims of the whims of an unsympathetic and soulless **Universe**—in almost the same cold and heartless way we humans treat the lowly insect kingdom. From this disheartened view of the Universe, Mars and every other heavenly body indeed get to "attack" planet Earth again and again, leaving us vulnerable earthlings forever insecure about the twists and turns on our life path. In addition, it sounds like we'd be blindly groping our way through an existence devoid of ultimate meaning. Is this the chilling path we want to take astrology and humanity down? I think not.

Sure it's sweet news when our Jupiter and our Venus transits roll around and everything's coming up roses, because here the outer world caters to nearly our every wish (of course, we're not thinking about the damage that too much of a good thing can create). But there's no joy in our heart when Saturn and the Outer Planets come barging in on the scene to "cause" major grief by ruining any future plans for personal happiness. And so, by adopting the above materialistic outlook on astrology (with its flat-out belief that all basically originates from sources outside of us), we're made to feel like pawns of dumb fate or captives of some darker destiny we seem powerless to change. The best we can do is just learn to duck as much as possible and avoid being hit broadside by any antagonistic cosmic powers-that-be. Yet, realistically, how long can we expect our "duck" to last? This quickly becomes an anxiety-provoking way to work with astrology, one that tosses any sense of personal empowerment right out the penthouse window and smack dab onto the unforgiving pavement below! It simply is not the way I choose to experience the birth chart.

By the way, Uranus is one planet that's real easy to blame for any and all screwy external predicaments that seem to happen *to* us rather than *because* of us. It's a difficult energy for anyone to

take personal responsibility for, since Uranian outcomes seem so insane and ridiculous at times, often punctuated by jaw-dropping surprises. How could we possibly have anything to do with co-producing such oddball Uranian scenarios, we wonder, especially when they often only get crazier by the minute and leave our life in a temporary tailspin? We reason that no intelligent person would intentionally opt for such a chaotic turning of events. No one really relishes being that caught off-guard in life.

I suggest it makes more sense to regard Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto as cosmic messengers providing us with spanking new information about our greater human potential; and that we should savor all personal insights gained as if we're being served nourishing soul food (exotic to the taste). How much of this food we're willing to consume and digest at any one time is up to us and our ability to overcome family programming from the past, as well as social conditioning in the here-and-now. Some of us are ready to eat a big, hearty bowl of such transcendental soup, while others will take only little spoonfuls, swallowing reluctantly; and then again, some of us are just not hungry enough to sample anything that tastes unfamiliar.

Each Outer Planet reveals something valuable to us regarding how our true Self best functions at deeply integrated levels (since each planet deals with helping us see things in terms of greater wholes rather than of fragmented pieces). If anything, personal events probably only happen once such planets have been given the go-ahead by our **spirit**—that eternal part of us forever in co-creative alliance with greater universal designs. Of course, this core spiritual Self of ours operates in ways that seem incomprehensible to our normal waking consciousness. Thus, we seldom readily comprehend life's game plan for us when an Outer Planet transit is active in our chart.

Obviously, we certainly don't feel we ever deliberately give Uranus permission to shake up our foundation overnight and leave us in a state of disorientation and uncertainty. However, to exclusively condemn a Uranus transit for throwing our life into a temporary state of uproar and disarray is to miss the point. It is our central Self who internally signals the Universe to willingly

provide us with "whatever" we need for a major life overhaul. The transits just show us in measurable, graphic terms when the timing is ripe and when a fresh cycle of rapid growth is at hand.

STAYING CONSCIOUS

It's always a good idea to work consciously with our astrological **transits—defined** as the current positions of the planets in the sky that signal natal planet response in our birthchart. Being conscious and alert allows us to sample more from life's menu of situational choices. Recognizing our options for action during any transit empowers us; we become less locked in and limited by circumstances.

When certain life events feel fated and thus unalterable, it suggests we're probably unconscious about many underlying elements of the matters in question. Our sense of choice seems non-existent. Remaining unconscious about issues also means we're less able to evaluate all sides objectively, least of all the side that probably bothers us the most. We don't sense we have choices because we have little psychological insight into what our conditions are all about. Why are they occurring this way, and why now? And most of all, why are they happening to us? That's something we typically ask when things are turning out badly or seemingly beyond our control.

Thus, the less aware of our psychological make-up we are, the more bewildered we can be when fate decides to take a sudden or tragic turn (Uranus is especially notorious for its stunning **turnabouts**). Of course, few of us seem to care how unconscious we are when things are going fantastically **well—that's** usually not the time when we wring our hands and cry out, "Why me?" Still, it's probably good to get a psychological handle on those situations that directly involve us as soon as possible. Astrology can assist us well in this regard.

Our transits can quickly get us in touch with important issues of the moment that require our attention and skillful resolution. That often means that we'll need to flexibly negotiate with the Cosmos (and with our loved ones) without getting too hung up on

the fact we're actually compromising here and there. Actually, compromise is a Libran way of dealing with the world. It works well in many circumstances and keeps our relationships running smoothly, but most so when we are conscious of this process and are making our adjustments to others willingly. To do that requires our understanding that what's going on inside us is also being reflected outside of us, projected onto an environment that will offer us a better look at the inner themes we are working with. That's why we shouldn't be so quick to wish for certain transits to be over and done with (good riddance!) before we've even figured out *why* they are visiting us in the first place.

Transits point out potential life problems, **but—thanks** to astrology's rich and multileveled **symbolism—our** transits also provide creative solutions for such problems (something more than just that old "duck-and-avoid" routine). The answers we are looking for are to be found in the transit pattern itself, played out within the context of current circumstantial probabilities. We can either ignore solutions implied, maybe because they require more inner and outer change than we care to undergo, or we can take the ball and run with it as far as possible. The key is knowing how to effectively put astrology's symbolic building blocks together (shown by the natal/transiting planets, the signs, and the houses involved), and then creatively construct something satisfying out of them.

Let's say that transiting Uranus is about to square our natal Venus in the Second House. If we've studied astrology for a while, we already know what Uranus is basically telling us here: something needs a quick and maybe surprising change; something's becoming stale and freedom-inhibiting; we've outgrown a condition that's now holding us back. We also can figure out what the earthy side of Venus in the Second can mean (all those things we're very attached to for our material and emotional **security**—things that ground us, pleasure us, and make us feel content). We then need to consider the distinctive traits of the aspect involved, the psychology it uses to take action. (See *Dynamics of Aspect Analysis*¹ for a detailed review of each aspect's "personality".)

We can also try to link this Uranus transit with other contrasting or reinforcing factors operating in our chart as we look for even broader patterns of meaning. Still, at some point, we'll need to question what we can do to better direct this and any other transit toward areas appropriate for our development, and according to the growth requirement of that transit (conjunctions have different agendas than do oppositions, for instance). Otherwise, the Universe has no choice but to come up with a few of its own Uranian scenarios that we're bound not to like (and then everything seems to indeed come at us from the outside). Why not instead attempt to co-create a better outcome?

It's wiser to first come up with a few common-sense solutions that are well within our power to attain, even though Uranus has a taste for unanticipated resolutions that seem more a matter of using “**uncommon**” sense. Life is telling us to at least dump those Second House belongings we've underused for years (especially those fad purchases we made during some other zany, carefree Uranus transit). We then might instead relish the experience of freedom from the clutter of possession overload, at least for a while, as we reform our material structure. Rather than impulsively toss items into the trash bin (a quick but mindless Uranian solution), why not give some away to charitable organizations that recycle them back into the community (particularly so if our Venus is in Scorpio)? Every transit is trying to tell us a personal story about our subjective reality and what we can do to change the plot if we don't like how the drama is going. We get to take a shot at being our own director and screenplay writer as well.

Note

1. Bil Tierney, *Dynamics of Aspect Analysis*, CRCS Publications, Sebastopol, CA, Rev. 2nd Edition, 1993.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

WHEN EGOS ROAMED THE EARTH...

Don't let my book's upbeat, encouraging title mislead you. "Alive and well" may be more what we *hope* we'll feel like after Uranus has made sweeping changes in our lives and has rewarded us with personal enlightenment, liberation from social indoctrination, and a greater awareness of our mind's vast potential. After all, Uranus and the other Outer Planets are here to show us that we are and have always been more than just human (of course, we're still fixated on proving to ourselves we're more than just mammals). Metaphysicians like to remind us that we hold the keys that unlock the "god-within" spark of our being, enabling us to safely experience increased degrees of transpersonal (cosmic) **consciousness—but** only when we have psychologically prepared for this and are truly ready. Besides, it's tricky to operate exclusively on such otherworldly levels and still hold down a job, pay our bills, and do all those other mundane things we must do in order to carry on and be regarded as reasonably sane.

Too much Outer Planet energy, if prematurely activated, could create great unrest and discontent for us should suddenly we balk at being tied down by our all-too-earthly physical body. Even

worse, we may loathe being limited by the bio-mechanics of our brain, which some days seems to work as slowly as a floppy drive. In this state of affairs, if given a choice, some of us would rather be pure consciousness. Some of us would even rather be "all mind" anywhere else but on this "backward" planet (any "advanced" solar system will do)! That's what it's like—a touch of divine madness—when we become spiritually accelerated too soon (or when we think we are). Yet Saturn won't allow us true transcendence until we've learned to better ground ourselves in matter with greater self-awareness (even a superbly healthy body is needed for deep spiritual awakening, according to yogic masters of the East).

Our strong urge to fly high and free ourselves from our earthly confines is, however, met by the restrictive heaviness of physical gravity and any hidden resistances coming from the shadow side of our psyche. We're angels wearing lead wings and we're stuck on the runway! Blind escapism, driven by unconscious compulsions, can be an Outer Planet's defense against our mortal limitations. It's a response that is often destructive to our ego's health and to our ability to function in Saturn's real and very concrete world.

Therefore, when our otherworldly fantasies crash and burn, and when "gurus" we've devoted ourselves to fail us, a few of us could fall into deep depressions or even undergo psychological breakdowns. Without mental poise and emotional balance, an overload of poorly integrated Uranian energies could turn us into agitated, unstable nervous wrecks. This is why a healthy sense of ego is very important to have, along with a capacity to objectively analyze one's inner motives and also to learn to use all incoming energies in moderation.

Ego is not a dirty word, especially in Saturn's dictionary. In fact, Uranus has great plans for our ego once we first are willing to undergo a few needed make-overs. Often quite street smart, our Saturn-protected ego teaches us how to thrive on the material plane by knowing the ropes of survival. This is something which provides Uranus with valuable tips and experiences it cannot otherwise appreciate in its own loftier realm. After all, the world of the human ego is rather exotic to the Outer Planets, primarily

because it's so darn alien to their being. Therefore, learning how to make it in the material world can teach Uranus a few new tricks, which in turn helps rouse this planet's inventive streak in ways that make our physical experience more exciting.

Our solar **ego—the** commander of its own, limited **realm—**helps Uranus to creatively manifest its timeless, abstract essence in more material ways. Unfortunately, our ego doesn't really comprehend "**timeless**" states of being, since it's so used to operating in terms of a finite reality where promising beginnings can have successful endings, depending on how ambitious our strivings are from start to finish. Planets that point to our ego and its development are the Sun, our internal "big shot" who comes up with grand and self-glorifying plans; Mars, the prime instigator who provides the fuel to burn, which then speeds up goal attainment; and Saturn, the qualified headmaster of finite reality who must, after much careful inspection, authorize final approval of all ego-driven projects, since "Them's the rules," he says.

Now give each of these planets a strong Uranus transit and watch how we start to feel restless, speed up our tempo, and attempt to break out of our habitual expression in favor of doing something more experimental. Yet the process is all a bit nerve-racking for us as soon we realize that, with this sky god, there's no way to know for certain whether satisfying outcomes will result from all this acceleration of energy and all this bold risk-taking.

Nonetheless, our ego's willing to play the great host to this unusual out-of-towner from afar, if it can receive something outstanding in return, something that will put its shining solar face on the map, so to speak, and make it a mighty force to reckon with in this world. Well, guess what? Our ego eventually finds out the hard way that Uranus won't make such quickie deals with the Devil (although Pluto might be tempted); in fact, Uranus will guarantee us nothing but an "interesting" time that might just also leave us with more questions about life than with solid, workable answers. Our ego had better learn fast how far it can and cannot go with Uranus, Neptune, and **Pluto—each** armed with awesome powers we only dream about; we might be treated to a few of their divine gifts once we stop wanting them so badly

for our own self-centered purposes. But we'll first need to understand and appreciate the wisdom of true Outer Planet detachment—and Uranus certainly can give us a real taste of this.

SURRENDER OR ELSE!

Our solar ego, feeling self-deserving, is determined to marshal the energies and assets symbolized by Mercury, the Moon, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. These can become valuable resources to be harnessed by the execution of our will's desire. This is perhaps why the ego feels so capably in charge of our total waking reality—it has back-up support at its command. It thereby considers itself well-fortified and able to do battle with all Outer Planet energy during those times when ego-preservation is at stake (our ego will do desperate things to keep its central seat of power). We humans will therefore have to contend with this defensive element within our psyche that won't let our ego be taken over by a planet representing the very things unstabilizing Uranus does. Yet if we refuse to surrender, we cannot grow beyond a certain established point. In time, our defiant ego often ends up being invaded anyway by the overwhelming forces of the Outer Planets, but all parties are angry and disgusted at this point. By then it's a case of a hostile takeover!

We also have internal complexes dwelling in our personal unconscious that often fight against our transcendental development (complexes that have a potent life the ego knows nothing about). Should they get a foothold into our emotional territory, as they often do, they'll manipulate us using fear and distortion to arm-twist our instincts into blocking Outer Planet integration. Such complexes will feed us a warped interpretation of trans-Saturnian principles. We've seen throughout history how the collective unconscious' shadow-parts (made up of a greater and more potent mass of these internal complexes) have misused Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto energies in twisted ways, causing many people to suffer as a result.

However, considering all such combined opposition they run up against, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto still manage miraculously to come out as winners. They know what the Master Plans of Spirit are about and will not give up on their ultimate goal of achieving our evolutionary flowering (I guess they love mind-boggling challenges)! If too much ego gets in the way and tries to obstruct such planetary flow, this only postpones but never fully obliterates our cosmic unfoldment. Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto in the end prevail, and for that we will someday be "eternally" grateful.

MAKING HOUSE CALLS

Outer Planet transits can last quite a while, which already confuses some of us, because we're taught that such "Higher Octaves" are all about *quicken*ing our energies and speeding up our evolutionary journey. So it must be Earth's gravity that weighs these planets down and makes them move about so **slowly—something** only Neptune actually seems to enjoy. Actually, "slow" is good when it comes to in-depth development; slow means "deliberate" and "meaningful." It's not all that uncommon for Uranus to spend almost a decade in some of our natal houses (and typically even longer than ten years for Neptune and **Pluto—the two who'd most want us to ponder our life's ultimate purpose with greater depth**). These planets, remember, think nothing of time going by. Time is seen as Saturn's big, boring **fixa-tion—not theirs**.

Yet things can get tedious and testy when, like guests who've overstayed their visit, these planets refuse to leave us **alone—they** hang around way too long. "How much Pluto transiting Venus must a decent person endure?" could be our lament by the second year of such interpersonal intensity (actually, it's the indecent folks that Pluto's more interested in). It's typical that when we don't see quick results solving our problems, and when new complications set in instead, that we're ready to do a little Outer Planet bashing. (Yes, even professional astrologers sometimes do it in the privacy of their own homes, probably while taking a shower

when no one else is around to hear the blood-curdling screams.) We collectively are not sure if we even *like*—**muchless trust**—Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto, each of whom can come off at times like a certifiable weirdo from the other side of the cosmic tracks.

And so I say it's perfectly all right to get ticked off by a nerve-racking transiting Uranus opposition or a hair-pulling quincunx; we're human and we must blow off a little steam to keep from really cracking up. But even when we've had **enough—and** naively say, "Poof, be **gone!**"—**Uranus** won't simply disappear; in fact, stranger-looking rabbits start coming out of more hats! Therefore, it's best that we deal with the matters of our Uranus-transited house squarely and not waste energy moaning or getting all paranoid about our future. This planet will be there for the long haul, and so our adaptability is vital to the enjoyment of productive outcomes.

Over the course of time (which is when Outer Planet efforts really shine), we'll realize we have a new and improved natal house to play in, a place where we can entertain our friends more creatively and even invite the **world-at-large** to see the stylish renovations made. We probably also have more room here to breathe and stretch. We thus shouldn't be so fast to kick out these three often disruptive "interior redesigners," because they all have a talent for being far-sighted and visionary (well, Neptune does need special reading glasses now and then). Uranus, especially, knows what we'll need to have around us in our environment in order to make quantum leaps in psycho-spiritual growth. And it gets its orders directly from the Great Beyond, which tells us we should let those people and things suddenly ushered into our lives fall into place, even if it takes a while for the dust to settle. A greater Intelligence than ours or society's is rearranging the scenery and revising the script every so often; all we have to do is bravely make our entrance and let Uranus' exciting action begin.

A TRANSITING PLANET'S ROLE

This is a good time to clarify terms. A transiting planet functions differently than does a transited natal planet (the one receiving

the transit). Our natal planets are part of our character unfoldment process. We'll have plenty of time to develop the strengths they symbolize while we work on recognizing their weaknesses when mishandled. Time allows us to refine these energies and custom-tailor them to our growing needs; they feel very close and natural to us at some point, for better or worse. Natal planets don't seem as if they are coming from external sources, although they sure do when we habitually project them onto others (the natal Outer Planets can be readily projected in our early years, or even for a lifetime for some of us hard-core Saturnians).

During a transit, our natal planet takes on a passive-receptive role as it initially absorbs the energies of the transiting planet. It may absorb and then try to quickly expel such incoming energies (not everything tastes so good at first), yet it still has to take something of that other planet inside itself before it can accept or reject anything. We therefore have an opportunity to see how well that planet's new pieces fit into the familiar world of the natal planet we already know and love or loathe. However, many times what we "already know" is limited or obsolete; we're also not seeing our perennial blind spots in this area. A Uranus transit, especially, becomes a time for us to open up to new information about becoming more **self-aware**.

But in the long run, it's the *natal* planet's principles that must be satisfied by this transit if this passage is to be deemed successful. The natal planet in question is not a puppet in the hands of a dictatorial transiting planet, but hopefully it will act as a co-creator of our unfolding consciousness.

For example: transiting Uranus may be opposing our natal Mars. This tells us that a lot of Uranian people and circumstances will work together to make an **impact** on those personal facets of our being represented by our natal Mars, with emphasis placed on our customary ways of responding to outside stimuli whenever our Mars is opposed by any **planet**—are we usually aroused or enraged? We'll have our typical ups and downs and surprises coming from "outta da blue" during this period. Still, how creatively we resolve this transit **will** have much to do with how well we've fulfilled our Martian urges. Even if our Mars

takes in a bit more of Uranus' vision, it's still our Mars that has to go forth in life doing what it does best (only now with a different perspective than before regarding venturesome action). The bottom line is that any transit's end results must highlight the nature and needs of the transited planet; thus, if we start with a scary-looking Pluto aspecting our oh-so-sweet Venus, Venus will have the last word in the **matter**—**hopefully** a deeply transformed Venus, that is!

A FEW TIPS

If you don't have and never will have transiting Uranus going through your Third, let's say, it still will transit your natal Mercury a few times during your life span. In this case, determine when those Uranus/air Mercury transits will occur, read my material about them, but then also read what I've said about Uranus transiting the Third. Air Mercury and the Third House are two examples of Principle Three, one of the twelve principles that hold astrology and life itself together. The material I've offered is thus fairly interchangeable; the house **transit** reports at least supplement the transited natal planet information. This is why it's best to read and compare both sections. I also feel that my material could be applied to just natal interpretations, keeping in mind what I said before about how character-developing themes of our natal planets take longer to unfold and are less urgently resolved.

ROCKET AWAY

I think you've been sufficiently briefed. Your travel papers appear to be in **order**—but not for long, I predict! You've taken all your shots to protect you from coming down with rare states of mind, although little good that will do you on this long and very strange trip you're about to take. Your earthly insurance policy is covered, but no guarantees are provided once you leave Saturn's orbit. "Them's the rules," he says! All geared up in your shiny new astro-sensor body suit, there's really no time to bail out now.

The launching pad is has been cleared, there's a flash of lightning in the distance, the space ship is about to take off, and *you* need to be strapped into your mind decompression module before we take off in ten seconds, nine seconds, eight **seconds**...one second... blast off!

A URANIAN TOUR OF OUR NATAL PLANETS

THE USUAL SUSPECTS

Before exploring the details of the gravity-defying world of our Uranus transits, it might be smart to first preview each planet and house that Uranus technically gets to contact and maybe revolutionize—including itself—during the course of its whirlwind eighty-four-year spin around our natal (birth) chart. Astrologers call one such complete Uranus cycle a "Uranus Return." It seems the old wild-eyed freedom-fighter, after defiantly leaving home at a tender age to seek enlightened independence, eventually gets to head on back again to earlier natal stomping grounds—that is, *if* we've eaten enough fruits and veggies and have managed to live long enough to experience this transit. Hopefully, we arrive late in life at this special passage less weighed down by cumbersome, conflictive, psychological baggage.

By the time of its Return, Uranus has helped to shake up many of our life's duller, socially conditioned structures throughout decades of sometimes dramatic and unexpected **change**—usually all for the better. We typically want to feel free from the constraints of society's conventional expectations of us by the time our Uranus Return is **official**—at this point, no one can tell us

how we *should* act and behave at our age, because we simply don't care to submit to set social standards any longer (besides, we figure we've paid enough dues to society already). Many of us by now are impervious to the narrowly defined rules of the **Establishment**—and not just at this seasoned point in our lives, but perhaps ever since our mid-life crisis years when transiting Uranus opposed our natal Uranus (a lively time of bolder inner questioning, when we began to throw off a few oppressive shackles of conformity in favor of exciting self-discovery).

At the Uranus Return, as well as at other pivotal points during this planet's life cycle, we are inclined to ignore traditional social guidelines and external authorities and, instead, willingly detach from society so that we may follow the lead of our own "inner awakener." Not all of us will turn out to be so headstrong and defiant by our **mid-eighties**—but try getting in our way and pushing us around during our well-deserved Uranus Return. You're just asking for trouble!

Let's start with a planetary review of our birth chart's cast of colorful **characters**—especially when seen from Uranus' uncommon perspective. Doing so may help us get a better feel for just what's at stake during our major and more memorable Uranus transits to come:

THE SUN

Here's where the heartbeat of our chart can be heard, letting us know that our **ego**—backed by our **will**—is ready and able to pump vital energy into our lives so that we can be all that we can be (at least from our ego's limited perspective). Our Sun helps us to **realize**—in a positive, confident **way**—that we have a right to be naturally self-focused when it comes to our personal development. Nobody else can do our lives as convincingly as we can, once we follow our heart and allow ourselves to shine brightly in the world. We're not to hold back from displaying our creative potential, and certainly not because we doubt our innate worth.

Our natal Sun symbolizes the part of ourselves that honors our individuality, proudly so at times. The Sun encourages a

healthy and creative expression of "me" consciousness. Our Sun's sign and house positions thus become vital to our unfolding growth as we mature. Here's where we radiate **our** essential being and where we are challenged to display our admirable strengths to the world in good faith and with an sense of optimism.

Right from the start, Uranus is quickly attracted to the display of high self-regard and courage typically shown by the Sun. Uranus admires this fiery planet's willingness to individualize itself, because this prompts this planet to stand out in a crowd by boldly showing off what it's got that makes it so special. After all, that's what Uranus itself does all the **time—stand** out as being different, although not always in the popular, crowd-pleasing manner of an impressively well-managed Sun!

The Sun is no coward or wimp. It has a strong enough psychological backbone to gain Uranus' attention and respect. This is good, because Uranus is more apt to suddenly shatter any self-limiting sense of weakness or feelings of victimization a planet may have. Therefore, it helps when the planet in question already has a positive sense of its own strengths and merits. In fact, the self-congratulatory Sun always wants to come up a gold-medal winner in life, a figure to be held in high esteem. As a rule, with the Sun, Uranus doesn't have to address destructively self-defeating issues that often torment us regarding some of the other planets in our chart. It's hard to imagine that our Sun would ever see itself as having inner demons to grapple with (the kind Neptune and Pluto have us struggling against).

If anything, we may feel at times like a frustrated actor waiting to play a major starring role in life, and yet our Sun isn't going to be too traumatized by **anything—basically** because it's not a planet that deeply internalizes its experiences. It's an extrovert at heart, with its sights set on commanding what's "out there" in life, not plumbing our inner depths.

In many ways, Uranus already acts very much like the Sun. It is highly self-expressive and desirous of all sorts of colorful adventure. It is brave and up front when it comes to facing up to life's obstacles, and it always does what it takes to live autonomously, free from the dictates of others. All these are traits we apply to the

Sun. However, the gift of detachment belongs to Uranus, not to the Sun, who is instead prone to take offense and get all worked up when not given the royal treatment. Being worshiped and adored is something Uranus couldn't care less about; in contrast, the attention-hungry Sun is hooked on receiving glowing reviews from the world. Still, Uranus knows our Sun is willing to support the freedom to individualize at will. This appeals to Uranus.

Later on, when we begin exploring our Uranus/Sun transits at length, we will find that they represent stimulating periods in life when we are driven to pull away from mindless identification with others on a collective basis. We feel impelled instead to "do our thing" and separate from the masses. Sometimes we may do too good of a job of individualizing and thus may alienate our environment by showing an uncooperative streak of rebellion. However, for the most part, Uranus/Sun transits help us to open our eyes wider in order to better see our true self and our brilliant but untapped creative potential.

If there's going to be a problem here, it's due to the Sun assuming that it can and will run the show single-handedly; that it has unlimited license to dictate over and control everything and everyone within its grasp. Our ego tends to enjoy running amok with unchecked power whenever Saturn's out of town on business and therefore unable to regulate our Sun's energy. Uranus won't go for that, and will conspire to break our (self-centered) will by introducing swift but fateful changes in our life that demand we let go of the reins we hold so tightly. Our Sun's perspective is seldom broad or experimental enough to satisfy Uranus, and so we are forced to redirect our will power and instead learn to be more adaptable and curious enough to accept the sudden alterations required of us. The natal house of our Sun should give clues as to where this Uranus transit can be most effective, even if jolting at times. Here we can go through a renaissance period of sorts, one that can prove to be very exciting regarding the Sun's creative outpourings. See Chapter Ten for further discussion on this topic.

THE MOON

The Moon is not given enough credit in astrology for symbolizing a wise and knowing part of our basic nature. Calling it merely a planet of "instinct" tends to imply that our lunar self is something primal, primitive, less accessible, and less spiritually evolved (after all, even the lowly amoebae has blind instinctual reactions to the simplest of outer stimuli). Meanwhile, Mercury has traditionally been touted as being the smart and clever one with a "real" brain in its head. We figure we can always count on **Mercury—armed** with relevant facts and figures—to know what's going on in life, to have ready and reliable answers if need be.

However, we forget that it's our natal Moon that securely knows its way around the block, more so than does any other planet in our chart. The Moon senses that it has already "been there, done that," and now has an inner feel for the territory it had once covered so well in the past (i.e., past lives). It doesn't even have to first analyze any situation in order to appropriately respond to it. Its emotional take on reality can be quite astute and on target (not just "overly subjective," as its critics would claim). The Moon's special intelligence about human behavior is a matter of a deep gut-knowledge that goes beyond what books and classes can teach us about life. Our lunar-sensitive solar plexus probably functioned more as our "animal brain" when we were first developing our human traits as a race in those earliest of times on the **planet—in** days before spoken language and our ability to rationalize our feelings were born.

It would seem that Uranus would enjoy working with any planet that claims to have a good sense of "knowing" and that comes with its own built-in radar system (no batteries needed). That's because Uranus is also pretty intuitive about **things—it** can size up people and situations fast. Therefore, Uranus is very curious about our Moon's potential to further develop its sensitive ability to pick up subtle data quickly from the environment. Uranus is also a lightning quick scanner of what's happening around it (although not in the same observational way that

Mercury scans). However, the Moon can sponge in its environment rather indiscriminately. It's so good at absorbing life that it doesn't filter out the undesirable elements of its surroundings as well as it needs to. Thus, it gets waterlogged periodically.

Remember, one of the most important assets a planet can have—according to Uranus—is adaptability (and probably this is so valued because Uranus is itself such a quick-change artist, never one to be mired in routine and habit for long). Any planet too easily stuck in ruts because of a stubbornly inflexible mind-set gets Uranus all riled up and ready to revolt! Uranus hates static conditions. Thus, it hopes the Moon is hip and "with it" enough to quickly go with the flow by being able to emotionally embrace radical change, overnight if need be. Even Uranus never knows ahead of time when such abrupt change must take place!

However, the Moon has a big problem with **this—sudden** change can be scary and security-threatening. Any imposed outer change can also unexpectedly remove from us those people and things we've grown accustomed to (in addition, Uranus seldom offers the warning signs of what's to come that the insecure Moon typically needs). Wherever our natal Moon is can describe how and where we instinctively do whatever it takes to keep things familiar, repetitive, stable, and feeling safe. It's the lunar side of our nature that likes to cling to whatever we have valued as a long-term source of emotional comfort and physical gratification (this gives our Moon strong earthbound appetites that seek predictable fulfillment). Uranus doesn't understand this "dumb" urge to cling like a barnacle to anybody or anything for dear life, especially for long periods of time. This is a sharp point of contrast and a major challenge for both planets to resolve.

During our Uranus/Moon transits, the house in which our natal Moon falls may be ripe and ready for an overhaul. Of course, our Moon doesn't think so and would rather things stay just as they are. The nature of the transiting aspect involved determines whether this time in our life feels like a welcome renovation or an explosive attack on our cherished patterns of behavior. To Uranus, it's plainly obvious that certain life conditions have grown stale and are now failing to offer us true emotional

support. It's time to give it up, let go, release our grip, and walk away from an old but now obsolete source of security if we wish to awaken to our greater potential.

Uranus knows the Moon can be a deep assimilator of fresh patterns once it feels at home with its new situation. After our Moon has emotionally accepted and digested these experiences, Uranus feels more certain that its own sweeping visions of reform will take hold for a while on very personal, tangible levels (something Uranus can't seem to accomplish as well on its own, but that the Moon has little trouble achieving). Read more on this in Chapter Nine.

MERCURY

Natal Mercury is one planet that won't waste much time wanting to get to know this oddball **stranger**—the one calling himself **Uranus—who's** just entered the Busy Brain bookstore (Uranus' name alone makes Mercury want to come up with a few **wisecracks**). Mercury immediately has tons of questions to ask of Uranus (such as **"What's** makes your eyes strobe rapidly like that? Does it involve the use of batteries?" or "Why do you walk in such a fast *zigzag* motion? Is that some kind of rare hereditary condition?").

Uranus instantly likes this inquisitive and apparently **forthright** Mercury, with its nosy but innocent curiosity. Mercury is here to learn as much about life as possible, and Uranus has some pretty wild theories that it's ready to share. It seems that Mercury will listen to anything if it's stimulating **enough—therefore**, Uranus makes sure that what it tells Mercury is nothing but stimulating, even mind-blowing at times. Uranus gets a big kick out of watching Mercury's jaw drop in amazement!

Our natal Mercury house is a place in our life where we are always knowledge-gathering and looking for smart solutions to living. Here, our mind's antennae are always up and ready to intercept the signals that travel through the busy air waves of our immediate environment. We are sensitive to life's little fluctuations and **changes—which** is perfect, because Uranus will bring

only change to our lives, not dull and uninspiring stability. Uranus' transits are nutty at times and too nerve-jangling for even Mercury to handle, but it's a sure bet that this little info-junkie planet will not be bored by what it hears coming out of Uranus (boredom is one thing Mercury can hardly tolerate).

As we are bombarded by new **Uranian-inspired** information, we learn to rapidly adjust our thinking while we put our analytical abilities on the shelf for a while, because this is not the best time to use them to understand our current life matters. Instead, it is an excellent time to expose ourselves to startlingly new ways to look at the world we live in, while we learn to quickly adjust our opinions accordingly, especially when viewing things from odd angles for the very first time. Uranus is eager for us to adopt a few peculiar perspectives. Logical Mercury will simply need to suspend disbelief and critical analysis until Uranus has had at least a fair chance to reveal its truths about reality's unusual and unpredictable nature. A little friendly mind-bending is just what the Cosmos has ordered for us.

During Uranus/Mercury transits, we often feel as if the old explanations of life we've stuck to without question are now up for a truth-seeking review. This will have a disruptive quality to it that unnerves us in the **beginning**—we start noticing sharp contradictions between what we were taught versus what we now intuit to be "the real deal." Knowing that Mercury is one fast learner (unlike old "slow-boat-to-China" Saturn), Uranus never worries about overloading this most open and flexible of planets. Actually, our own chart will hint at just how flexible or not we really are: Fixed Mercury **signs—except for Aquarius—are** likely to struggle at first to accept Uranian concepts, because such ideas seem so contradictory to what Mercury stubbornly upholds as factual and therefore valid. Cardinal Mercury signs, and especially Mutable Mercury **signs—perhaps** the least resistant of all, except for **Virgo—seem** more willing to go on the wild mental ride Uranus has to offer. They need the excitement of newness and novelty to keep their intellectual energies running on high.

In general, when Uranus meets Mercury, intellectual sparks fly. Such transits keep us on our toes mentally and won't let us

get too down-and-out about anything discouraging that may be happening in our lives (just detach and create some emotional distance, advises Uranus). However, sometimes Mercury proves to be a little too nervous, flighty, and flaky for Uranus (not so calm and grounded itself). This can give Uranus' brilliant flow of meteoric energy a "here today, gone tomorrow" quality that stirs up much noise and excitement for the moment, but then is gone in a flash! That's not good for materializing progressive Uranian ideals that need to last at least long enough to produce real benefits to society (which is why I say the Moon has a better chance at making something more permanent out of Uranus' insights and **illuminating revelations**—that is, once the Moon can be convinced it has nothing to fear). Unfortunately, Mercury can talk up a good revolution for a short while without ever really intending to take the radical action needed to make Uranian dreams come true. It seems that Saturn will have to come to the rescue to make such dream real. Chapters Eight and Eleven will cover this in detail.

VENUS

Calm and collected Venus loves its pampered life of graceful moves, smooth rhythms, affectionate displays, idealized romance, and all of those creature comforts that make the living easy. Venus also embraces the steady security of Earth's gravity, which keeps everything we value in **place**—that is, **just** as long as dear Venus doesn't end up feeling too weighed down in the process. Stability is very important to this planet, and so wherever Venus is found in our natal chart, it depicts where any sort of sudden disruption would certainly not be well-taken. (“**Uh-oh,**” says Uranus, “this could be tricky!”) How is the famous “Inner Awakener” to successfully arouse a sometimes lazy planet that likes to sleep in late, all comfy under warm and protective covers?

Actually, Uranus knows that sociable Venus responds well to meeting fascinating new people who are as sparkling mentally as they are appealing physically. Venus doesn't want to sit around and debate theoretical cosmology or some other such abstract thought (the stuff that excites Uranus and Neptune). Venus

would like to know more about that scintillating guest with the fast-strobing eyes whose unexpected wit keeps everyone in stitches at the party. *Very interesting*, thinks Venus. Uranus is a little odd-looking to Venus, but in an unexpectedly appealing way. It must be that sexy brainpower presented in such a bold and innovative manner (usually not the first thing we'd expect to turn on Venus).

With **Uranus/Venus** transits, fresh new faces coming on the scene are part of the social education we are to receive. This sounds nice, except that Uranus is really not interested in indulging us in a world of earthly attachments and sugary love connections. The Venus part of us has no idea of what's in store, because it's anticipating possessing something or someone exciting and novel that it can then have around to enjoy for a long time. But that's not the future scenario that Uranus is brainstorming.

Our Venus symbolizes how we can achieve a state of balance in our lives, which is never a static condition, but is instead one of a dynamic interplay of contrasting but complementary factors. Yet even that approach is too careful and conservative for transiting Uranus, who'd love to upset the apple cart to see just how much fruit will fall. A steady and even rhythm is not as appetizing to Uranus as it is to Venus. Uranus can appreciate things that clash in an interesting way (like wearing stripes with plaids), but Venus always looks for similarities that help combined energies to blend (like wearing socks that match).

Therefore, these **Uranus/Venus** transits typically require emotional adjustments that we really don't enjoy **making**—a big one being the ability to love somebody in a more detached, non-possessive manner. During this time in our life, we may not even get to hold on to that which we like, much less love, for long before unanticipated factors come in to completely alter the arrangement. If we have mastered the Venusian art of clinging to our loved ones, while turning up the volume of emotional dependency, Uranus is ready to yank away a few of those people from our clutches. Uranus is trying to drum into Venus' head that the dreaded phrase "Let's just be friends for now" isn't necessarily the

kiss of death. It usually means back off and allow room for another to breathe in this relationship.

Still, Venus is a very cooperative planet as long as it is treated fairly, not underhandedly. Uranus is not a devious planet, and will always be up front about its feelings. Our Venus may not want to hear the truth Uranus freely wants to say to us, but a part of us does appreciate the open honesty. It's just that Uranus is so darn inconsistent in Venus' eyes, something the love goddess has a real hard time tolerating.

With Venus, we seek self-expressive **outlets—usually** in the **arts—that** are reflective of the beauty and harmony we feel within. While Uranus is not particularly gifted in an artsy-craftsy way, it does have a superbly inventive mind which can help bring the spirit of innovation to any artistic project. Uranus helps us to grant ourselves permission to create unusual and at times bizarre beauty packaged in strangely appealing forms. Uranus and Venus can come together and give birth to styles that are very original and electrifying. Therefore, this transit works when we find suitable creative channels. But remember, it doesn't work as well when we are determined to grab onto an "ideal" lover whom we then try to exclusively own and not share with the world. For more on this subject see Chapters Seven and Twelve.

MARS

The thought of Uranus getting our Mars all roused up may initially sound like trouble. These are not mild-mannered planets blessed with any built-in sense of restraint and caution. And **yet—**perhaps because here's another dynamic fire **planet—Mars'** basic energy can be very appealing to Uranus (a bit fiery in its own reactions to life). Uranus is quite an activist when it comes to initiating change and ushering in new patterns for living a life of freedom. Mars is also bold and determined enough to act in pioneering ways that can help us plow new, unexplored territory for ourselves.

Uranus hates wimps and fraidy-cats, but that surely doesn't describe Mars. In fact, for any planet to insinuate that Mars is a yellow-bellied coward is to invite a black eye from a flying fist

(and Mars always gets in the first punch in any dispute). This assertive, feisty planet is not scared to do something it's never done before. It's actually more than willing to challenge itself in this way. Therefore, transiting Uranus is eager to urge us to **partake** of a little healthy experimentation in Mars-related action, except we're not to get too hung up on the end results. However, Mars may need more than a little convincing that having everything turn out its way isn't the most important objective at this time. Mars thus needs to be less single-mindedly competitive.

Our natal Mars is a continuous source of vitality for us, most so when we keep busy and remain in motion. Mars finds taking too many pauses or rests to be energy-depleting (something Venus can hardly believe). This is a spunky planet that prefers to tackle the external world head on and in a high state of vigor, and yet at times it's also willing to put a lot of energy into internal **matters—both mental and emotional—that** require our courage and stamina. Mars hates to give in to weakness and would rather push itself (and us) hard.

Uranus knows that this gutsy planet is ready for practically anything at a moment's notice. That's just as well, because Uranus gives us only a moment's notice for the most part before it sets up unpredictable life conditions requiring our quickest reactions. Venus may not easily decide if it wants to play Uranus' quirky game of uncertainty but, "come hell or high water," Mars is ready to give it a go. It's fearless in dealing with whatever life volleys its way, even that which comes unexpectedly from far left field (where Uranus is mostly known to hang out). Uranus wonders **what—so far—there** is not to like about this speedy red fireball of energy!

When dare-devil Mars sides up with venturesome Uranus, we feel a strong urge to move about impulsively and to take a few wild chances (both planets are risk-seekers). We certainly can't stand being cooped up indoors with nothing to do, except to maybe suddenly trip and sprain an ankle! Taking some kind of dynamic action is better than taking no action at all for these two. And both planets would love it if what we engage ourselves in allows for moments of true spontaneity.

One big difference between these planets is that Mars won't relinquish its sense of personal power long enough to learn from the wisdom of airy detachment that Uranus offers (that's when Uranus wonders if Mars is actually a bit of a jerk after all). Impatient Mars forces issues even when it's highly inadvisable to do so. It tends to jump into things prematurely, with a headstrong determination that shows no real sense of strategic timing.

Actually, Uranus can be accused of all the above as well, but Uranus also has an additional secret weapon at its disposal: intuition that works at lightning speed. It's this highly intuitive side of Uranus that allows us to stop in our tracks and discontinue all **activity—that old "screeching halt" technique—and** it's based on some sudden hunch that tells Uranus to interrupt or even totally abandon a project. No further analysis of the situation is necessary for Uranus. It just quits! Mars alone would instead go at it feverishly until the bitter end, or until it runs out of gas.

During our **Uranus/Mars** transits, we can feel highly driven to take some sort of decisive action rather than endure delays or stagnation. But our efforts can seem short-lived or choppy as Uranus tries to periodically detach, leaving our Mars feeling suddenly less vitally engaged in activity (our level of interest plummets because our mind is elsewhere). There is a strange stop-and-go quality. Maybe it means we are to work quickly in short spurts of time, then take a break, and start up when we again feel the itch to give our project our very best get-up-and-go. However, Mars doesn't really like to stop once it's revved up. Nonetheless, Uranus demands periodic interruptions. Mars also has a temper that's a tad too emotional for Uranus, even though this is one cerebral planet that can get fired up due to its high-strung temperament. Therefore, expect hot Uranian lightning bolts to strike from time to time! Read more about this in Chapter Six.

JUPITER

Up until this point, all of the planets mentioned fall under the "personal" category. This means they have self-related special

interests that revolve around obtaining varying degrees of ego-fulfillment. The answer to "What's in it for me?" is very important to all of them. None of these planets can be regarded as truly selfless, although the Moon does have its more saintly moments. However, by the time we move beyond the orbit of Mars we enter a different level of understanding that involves our growing awareness of society's more complex needs. This realm of experience is symbolized by Jupiter and Saturn, each categorized as a "social" planet (societal is probably a better word). Communities of people who depend on one another in a broad sense are traditionally built on the values of Jupiter and Saturn.

With Jupiter, we cannot afford to be too self-seeking, because this planet seems to reward those who most generously engage in social participation geared toward cultural betterment and moral uplift. Therefore, our scope of interest widens quite a bit, and we no longer revolve around ourselves **alone—that** small world of "me" and "mine." Here we learn to care for how all members of our culture are growing and improving themselves, even spiritually. This is one reason why extended education and mind expansion are big on Jupiter's list of "must things to do" in a lifetime.

Jupiter is associated with our urge to reach out to our community and inspire others to build an ethical and humanely tolerant society. Uranus takes note of this benevolent Jupiterian urge, because the Great Awakener will attempt to spark the flame of social activism in every planet it contacts. Yet with Jupiter, such activism—although evident—is often in an early developmental stage. Actually, Jupiter is caught somewhere between its desire to be a philanthropic humanitarian and its wish to enjoy unlimited materialistic privilege. It wants to spiritually uplift the world by promoting global harmony, but it also wants a chance to cruise the freeway speeding along in the new silver Mercedes it bought after getting lucky in Las Vegas. Earthly detachment is not as strong in Jupiter as it is in Uranus.

Both planets tend to be dissatisfied or restless with the duller routines and responsibilities of mundane living. Each looks for inspiration and hope in a vast world of future possibility.

Exploring the past and rehashing old memories are not what interests these forward-thinking planets. Getting stuck in suffocating relationships with control-freaks are also avoided like the plague. Give them lots of wide-open spaces devoid of clutter and tedious detail.

Uranus/Jupiter transits can be joyous times when we feel the Universe is giving us permission to be super-adventurous. The cosmic toy store is now open and we are allowed to choose a few nifty gifts of the mind to play **with—and** no one's really paying attention to time. Being playful with such cosmic opportunity is part of the general tone of things to come. Because of that sense of play, we can innocently stumble onto something by chance that leads to major self-revelation and fresh new paths of meaning. Jupiter is open to whatever Uranus has in mind, within limits. (Yes, Jupiter has its limits, yet it still manages to cover a lot of expansive, fertile territory.) However, Jupiter is a much warmer planet in temperament, with buoyant feelings that seem more emotive than emotional (considering their characteristically exaggerated response). Jupiter has a talent for getting an enthused crowd to feel good. It can turn people into true believers who are ready to take up a worthy cause.

Uranus gets the crowd going too, but with mixed results. That's because what's often lacking here is warmth, sympathy, good cheer, and that winning Jupiterian quality of not harshly judging human flaws. Being less socially diplomatic, Uranus can get the crowd agitated enough to start a riot! But in general, Uranus sees Jupiter, with its beaming smile and its friendly handshake, as a willing agent of progress, a positive force eager to campaign for social reform. Both planets have to be cautious about fanaticism, however, and about trying to apply their vision to everyone indiscriminately, without regard for individual differences. Still, Jupiter is not afraid to explore a little of Uranus' exciting world, because it loves encouraging anything that enlarges our perspective on life. See Chapter Fourteen for more.

SATURN

You'll recall that mythic Uranus and Saturn had more to deal with than the usual father/son conflict. Uranus was a cold, remote, unfeeling parent who refused to relate to any of his offspring in a real one-on-one manner, simply because they each failed to meet his ideal standards of unearthly perfection (in fact, he found ways to remove them altogether from the scene). To recap the mythological highlights: In order to avenge his sorrow-filled mother who was deprived of nurturing her children, Uranus' youngest son, Saturn, caught his daddy off guard and castrated him (and psychologically the old man was never the same thereafter). The power to rule was thus transferred to Saturn. Saturn later became paranoid about a prophesy stating that one of his kids would oust him from power, so paranoid that he swallowed each child right after he or she was **born—all**, that is, except Jupiter. Jupiter eventually put Saturn in his place and then happily took over the seat of power, and had a much better time doing so than did his old man.

This is not just a tragic tale of enmity between father and son, but one that hints at a fundamental tension between astrological Uranus and Saturn. To Uranus, Saturn represents the dark face of earthbound existence, including the constant pull of **gravity**—keeping our bodies feeling **heavy**—**and** the entrapping limitations imposed by time and space. Uranus doesn't wish to get involved with Saturn's restrictive side (our inventive energy can be devitalized by too much Saturn blocking Uranus' spontaneous flow). Thus, there are things about Saturn that even the normally fearless Uranus finds a bit scary.

But Saturn also finds Uranus frightening, due to this airy planet's ability to create chaos and disorder in ways that mess up even life's most well-organized plans. Peace and quiet are not what Uranus brings us when it's suddenly awakening parts of our chart and filling us with a restless spirit of activism. Here is a planet that thinks nothing of shattering the solid forms Saturn so carefully constructs to ensure our self-preservation (forms that

Saturn expects to endure forever). Uranus is therefore seen as some sort of wacko by Saturn, and a potentially dangerous one at that. And yet, both of these planets need each other. What Uranus quickly realizes is that Saturn can readily harness energy quite well in the physical world, and it can patiently assemble reliable structures that won't fall apart at the seams. Gee, Uranus can't do that!

Organizing form with attention paid to every detail is not something that comes easy to this planet. Although Uranus has the ability to brilliantly invent concepts that seemingly spring forth from thin air at amazing speed, Uranus is not very good at manifesting the intangible products of its divine mind in practical terms. It needs Saturn to help bring its electrical spark of genius down to Earth. Saturn's even willing and able to attend to the "boring" details involved in helping Uranian innovation take shape.

Uranus knows it cannot afford to become too unruly or bizarre and thus risk completely freaking out and alienating Saturn. It can't afford to lose this valuable ally. Yet tension between these two can quickly mount, especially when Saturn starts to take over operations in too inflexible a manner. Uranus thrives on unexpected interruptions and unplanned detours, but Saturn can't stand too much of that and will quickly seek to enforce its rules and **regulations**—the big rule being that you always must finish what you start! (Saturn's into heavy commitment.) Uranus wants to bolt out the door and not look back when anxious Saturn starts to clamp down like that. Somehow Saturn knows that, when working with Uranus, it might be left all alone at an awkward time holding the bag! Still, once Uranus comes to its senses and stops the angry-rebel act, it realizes that Saturn is the planet it can count on most to make worthy futuristic ideals become workable realities.

Uranus/Saturn transits are times when we need to put sustained energy and focus into our visions of a better tomorrow. Natal Saturn shows us where we grow ever so slowly and sometimes with a great suspicion that unknown outer forces may

someday conspire to overwhelm us and jeopardize our guarded security. Uranus is thus likely to be seen as a potential **trouble-maker**. However, the need to undergo a major attitude adjustment often coincides with a Uranus transit. Saturn must be shaken loose in order to quicken our development at this time. We'll have to trust that taking an offbeat path will offer us more security in the long run. We need to do whatever it takes to turn these two planets into co-producers of a personal game plan for living that fulfills our need for practical stability as well as our need for freedom of thought and action. More about this transit can be found in Chapter Fifteen.

URANUS

What is there about electrifying Uranus that's not to get excited about, wonders Uranus? Not much. Uranus is the big surprise factor in our chart, just waiting for the right moment to explode into action and come alive for us. If we insist on living too mundane or routine of a life, and if we let Saturnian authorities in society do the thinking for us (via the social indoctrination of both Church and State), then the Uranus energy within us remains uncomfortably stifled and unable to reveal the thrill of being a real individualist. Of course, with such individuality can come potential loneliness, outcast status, the likelihood of criticism for being too different, and an overall feeling of being out-of-sync with the times we nevertheless must live in. But it's sometimes the gamble we take to find our inner truth.

There are certain social comforts and protections to be had when gently rocked in the bosom of conformity. Those who seldom stir up waves in life also rarely capsize their boat! Playing things the safe way affords us many social advantages. However, Uranus is quite a dedicated wave-maker who'll rebel against doing things the "normal," expected way. Uranus doesn't go along with that old "safety in numbers" philosophy. It would rather operate alone and take its chances than risk being controlled by any repressive group mind-set. Transiting Uranus doesn't plan to lose any of its identity when relating to the other planets. Instead, it's those remaining

planetary parts of our psyche that typically undergo sudden Uranian make-overs in the name of progress.

When Uranus is in such high focus, the tempo of our life speeds up. We don't have much time to mull over the opportunities at hand (assuming we view the sudden changes we're going through as opportune rather than exasperating). Uranus now must be confronted in our life, not ignored. How willing are we to let go of a few stale habits? Uranus now gives us the itch to do a few things differently. What about "going-nowhere" relationships? Uranus is ready to give us a needed push in the right **direction**—such as the nearest exit!

Uranus/Uranus transits are periods where our personal understanding of what true freedom means is tested. Because this is not a very conscious planet to begin **with**—it falls in the category of "transpersonal" planets, along with Neptune and **Pluto**—**Uranus** makes sure that our personal environment sets up fresh and hopefully exciting conditions that motivate us to switch gears and start looking forward to experimenting with new avenues of expression. Sometimes the environment offers chaos and instability if that's what it takes to force us to wake up and turn our life patterns around for the better. These are periods of personal reform and timely risk-taking. Later in this **book**—in Chapter **Sixteen**—I'll explore the major Uranus/Uranus life cycles we all technically can go through. For now, let's just say that Uranus digs being Uranus, and so these transits are examples of unfettered Uranian energy at work on altering our inner and outer **realities**—so hold on to your hats!

NEPTUNE

Uranus instantly recognizes that Neptune is also transpersonal in orientation, and is thus able to exercise an extraordinary influence on human consciousness. To Uranus, this happily means that Neptune doesn't abide by the confining rules of Saturn any more than Uranus does. Uranus loves to defy Saturn at every turn, that is unless the Ringed One can manage every so often to come up with well-designed concepts that brilliantly incorporate

Uranian energy. Still, Uranus is wary of being boxed in by too tightly packaged Saturnian structures.

The typical sense of time/space limitations that most other planets feel on Earth isn't a problem for ethereal Neptune, because it's a planet that doesn't even notice the workings of time and space. Neptune is symbolic of an emotionally expansive energy that helps us feel connected to everything around us on a soul level. This leads to our enlightened awareness of the unity of all life. Uranus likes the fact that Neptune's energy is so sweeping and far-reaching, because this suggests Neptune is willing to optimistically enter into realms of vaster possibilities and of greater unknowns. (Uranus appreciates any planet willing to go out on a cosmological limb like this.) It was probably dreams and deep faith induced by Neptune that, centuries ago, allowed explorers to cross the Neptunian seas to discover various lands of the New World. Uranus would love to take advantage of such fervent Neptunian faith, knowing it can help remove our sense of any and all barriers in life.

However, Uranus is more a product of the Universal Mind of the Cosmos, not its Divine Heart (more aptly Neptune's title). As it transits our natal Neptune, Uranus would rather de-emphasize emotionality and instead capitalize on the power of Neptunian imagination and vision. Uranus also has plenty of progressive vision, but Uranus has its sights always on the future, while Neptune can get sucked back into the unresolved issues of our psychological past.

Uranus rockets away into the far-reaches of outer space, while Neptune slowly sinks to the unfathomable depths of the ocean. Both gravitate toward worlds that are alien to our everyday waking consciousness. Yet it's hard to shake Neptune out of its enchanted dream state long enough to satisfy adventuresome Uranus and its quest for clarity and truth. However, if it's adaptability that Uranus always seeks in a planet, then Neptune is to be highly valued for its malleable disposition. Uranus just wishes Neptune had more focus and substance.

The secret is to first capture Neptune's often short-lived attention by appealing to its humanitarian idealism and even its rarefied quest for ideal beauty. Brilliant, cerebral theories and futuristic social ideologies may get Uranus fired **up**—but anything too intellectualized fails to move Neptune (we must always touch Neptune's heart before it will offer us its wondrous treasures). Uranus will need to realize that its awesome brain-power and fiery rhetoric are not enough to satisfy the Dream Maker, who seeks instead to be guided along the quiet pathways of the soul.

In many ways, Neptune is nothing but a source of aggravation and frustration for Uranus: it's too passive, too receptive, and too easily able to seduce or surrender to another planet's will, even if only temporarily. Uranus would hate to become like that, even for a second! It seems that Uranus, a planet championing our right to be a free-spirited, will probably never understand the non-dynamic ways of **Neptune**—a planet that urges us to lose ourselves in waves of non-resistance, so that we may ultimately discover who we really are at the level of pure Spirit (as vague and baffling as that sounds to Uranus and the rest of the planetary gang).

Uranus/Neptune transits are times when we had better not hold on too tightly to a rigid interpretation of reality, especially if it's someone else's short-sighted interpretation. Neither planet is interested in wanting things to remain the **same**—**Uranus** shatters and Neptune dissolves, while Saturn goes nuts! Where Uranus and Neptune can really have a field day is in the area of turning on our spiritual and psychic awareness. Even creative projects demanding high levels of innovation and imagination are excellent ways to channel these combined planetary forces. In truth, a lot of people are simply not interested in seriously delving into such outlets. That's too bad, because when we bring Uranus and Neptune energies down to our life's more mediocre levels of activity, we typically feel that our world is getting messy and hard to control. Read more on this in Chapter Seventeen.

PLUTO

Pluto is the only planet that behaves in even more extremist ways than Uranus does when driven by a great social cause, except that it certainly cannot be labeled erratic, as well. Uranus admires this powerful planet from a careful distance. (No planet seems to be easy and relaxed around intense Pluto.) Pluto is very much like a sleeping volcano that first appears dormant but that also is capable of unexpectedly erupting at any moment, given the right environmental and psychological triggers (transits time such triggers). Uranus is not a planet that is temperamentally suited to deal with powerful emotional eruptions, even when it nonetheless provokes such intense release, as in this case. Still, the experimental, thrill-seeking side of Uranus feels driven to keep pushing the buttons of the other planets just to see what will happen **next—even** Pluto's "Warning: Only Activate When Absolutely Necessary!" secret emergency button, the one that can set things into motion that irrevocably alter our life-course.

Like Neptune, Pluto can be a source of deep internal **mystery—and** mysteries are something with which Uranus is not at all at ease, especially unknowable or unsolvable mysteries. Pluto rules the darkest underground elements of our **psyche—not** the sky god's favorite place to hang out. Still, because Uranus loves to drastically overthrow stifling conditions in the blink of an eye, it appreciates that Pluto is also adept at wiping the slate clean of those life elements that have become too soul-suffocating for us. Therefore, Pluto's urge to eliminate what no longer works is something Uranus finds valuable and even **intriguing—except** that Pluto tackles all of this in an unrelenting manner that Uranus finds a little too grueling at times. (Well then, Uranus, stop messing with red flashing buttons that are accompanied by dire warning signs!)

However, one concern is that Pluto may eventually turn around and try to wipe out Uranus, who therefore has to stay alert at all times to the threat of a total Plutonian annihilation (especially during Pluto's transits to natal Uranus). Actually, Pluto will always try to let whatever is of true value survive and simply

become reassembled or reused more potently. Uranus loves planets that are willing to change and **attempt** new ways of expression. But Pluto, like Uranus, does not easily bend to the will of another (it reads everything in terms of power plays). Uranian intentions can therefore be misunderstood and distrusted.

Here again, we have two transpersonal planets coming together, suggesting that what is to be accomplished during these transits bypasses the intentions of our ego altogether. With our ego out of the picture, so is any real sense of personal control over situational outcomes. Our emotional satisfaction in the matter is seldom considered by the Cosmos at this time (probably because our emotions would vote to keep things as they are for a lot longer). With **Uranus/Pluto**, our evolutionary acceleration is more important. We are to further empower ourselves spiritually and better direct our consciousness toward transcendental levels. However, this is only to be encouraged after a few unhealthy patterns in our lives have been destroyed.

Pluto is the master of depth awareness, something that Uranus doesn't have a degree in. But Uranus, with its laser-beam ability to pierce through illusion and confusion, figures it doesn't need to slowly plumb our murky depths in order to intuit where clogged internal pipes have thwarted our ability to liberate our consciousness. Uranus thinks that Pluto is too obsessed with controlling all facets of our inner development, and in much too serious and heavy-handed a manner. Pluto hardly smiles enough to suit offbeat, absurdity-promoting **Uranus**—a planet that would love to smash the thick walls of Pluto's underground inner sanctum and let in some bright strobe lights to replace Pluto's heavy sea of darkness. During our Uranus/Pluto transits, this is actually what we are trying to do, **albeit** unconsciously. Pluto gets to lighten up, becoming less suspicious about everything, and is more willing to release its hidden resources for us to inventively use. Read more about this in Chapter Thirteen.

Now that the planets of our life's drama have been introduced, we need a quick review of the next part of our birth chart: the twelve houses. Let's move on to the next chapter for a detailed look at each house and how Uranus might feel about transiting it.

A URANIAN TOUR OF OUR NATAL HOUSES

THE USUAL PLACES

The following is a preview of transiting house themes and issues that will be covered at length starting in Part Two, Chapter Six of this book. Here's where most of the Uranian action will take place for us during this transit.

OUR FIRST HOUSE

Regarding transits, this is a sector of our birth chart where we are given the go-ahead to initiate new beginnings for ourselves based on any inner light and wisdom gained from our previous transit. The transiting planet in question has just spent meditative time moving through the more quiet, solitary depths of our Twelfth House in an attempt to sort out unwanted psychological debris left over from past failures and traumas. It's also possible that spiritually transmuted energy is now available to us, the result of a planet in our Twelfth having successfully undergone a process of soul refinement and redemption. It's as if that planet has taken a deeply rejuvenating bath in the healing waters of the

spirit and is cleansed of toxic impurities accumulated from all previous house transits. Now it's ready to inaugurate a new cycle of experience for us as it crosses our Ascendant and enters our First House. We feel renewed on some level.

If that transiting planet is Uranus, we now have a powerful opportunity to use laser-sharp mind power to re-image and thereby reform our visible, surface **identity**—the person others think we are all about based on our surface presentation, due to our behavior and overall appearance. However, transiting Uranus didn't spend years and years soul-searching in our Twelfth House just to decide to have us emerge in our First wearing a nose-ring plus most of our hair chopped off, although that's certainly an option! Uranus now arrives in a state of wisdom (and grace) that we'll need to take advantage of, because we've been inwardly preparing for this special moment for quite a while, even if only on a subconscious level. We are more attuned to facets of Uranus at this point than we may realize at first.

We are capable and ready to make this effervescent planet come alive for us. Uranus spurs us to rapidly grow by leaps and bounds. Yet this will require that we show enough courage to venture forth into new, uncharted territory where we can make major breakthroughs concerning our self-image and the general way we display ourselves to others. It's a time to be very upfront with life and especially with letting the world know that we cannot be pushed around any longer or made to submit to any conditions that will hold back our potential.

The First House is an area symbolizing ways in which our life can be more fully in our own hands so that we may learn how to best steer ourselves toward new **directions**—**without** much interference from others. Uranus likes to hear that, because it's a planet that will never allow itself to be sidetracked by people for very long, unless they have something quick and brilliant to offer. Even when they do, Uranus still wants us to move on to new sources of stimulation.

Our First House is a life zone where pioneering personal beginnings can be set in motion by our self-starting impulses. We're the ones here who get the ball rolling. Uranus is all for

making independent fresh starts, especially if they challenge the limitations of our old and familiar (but boring) personal identity. Yet the Uranian things we do or act on in our First often shake up the long-term patterns we'd laid down over the years with partners in our Seventh House. This could be good or it could signal the end of unions that we've outgrown.

In general, this is a house where Uranus can do a lot of what it does best: sweep out the old and bring in the **new—all** in exciting ways that we and others can plainly see happening. The First House is a high-visibility zone; people get to witness here how we make our personal changes. There's little about our First House that's hidden from view. Read Chapter Six for more.

OUR SECOND HOUSE

Once we have repackaged ourselves in ways that display more of our true, individualized self, our next challenge is to ground this new sense of selfhood in the material world so that our awakened identity can continue to survive and thrive. This helps us to better value such a reformulated self-image and to find innovative but practical ways to demonstrate its worth to others. In other words, let's make these new changes pay off for us! Let's further capitalize on all the exciting things we've learned about ourselves during our First House transit.

However, Uranus is less comfortable in this house, basically because it's ill at ease with fully materializing itself in dense physical **expression—it** fears being trapped, slowed down, and limited by too much earthy structure and predictability. It's true that the Second House is very form-conscious and quite dependent on sturdy, tangible expression. It wants something concrete to hold on to, not just something thrilling to dream about. Our Second House asks, "What good is Uranian brilliance if we can't make it part of our concrete reality, especially in a workable and even profitable manner on a day-to-day basis?" Actually, that question could be asked of any planet moving through our Second House. Just how well will this sky god function on solid ground amidst a

calm and stable setting? Actually, the more Uranus feels trapped in routine, the more inventive it becomes in trying to free itself.

Typical matters of interest in our Second **House**—**such** as money and **possessions**—**may** seem at first too mundane for any Outer Planet. However, since so much of our consciousness can be wrapped up in our attempts to satisfy ongoing worldly desires, Uranus realizes that our adoption of false material values can stunt our development in the long run. Should we remain firmly attached only to physical securities, we'd fail to nourish our soul or broaden our mental awareness.

Historically, much spiritual seeking throughout the centuries has been tied to the renunciation of earthly desires in a devout attempt to overcome the appetites of the flesh. Well, in *this* house the flesh rules! Here, the body demands its creature comforts, and the sensory world of both our psyche and Mother Nature herself wield optimum power. Our Second House is not meant to suddenly transform into our otherworldly Twelfth House, no matter how spiritual our intentions are (each house has its evolutionary role to play out). Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto will therefore need to abide by certain "house rules" and show more consideration and respect for the ways that this Earth-appreciative Second House naturally pleasures itself and learns to grow.

Uranus usually tries to ignore such rules in favor of ushering in dramatic situational changes that destabilize our security base, and often in ways that seldom take our emotions or our sentimental feelings into account. It's true that we'll probably have to let go of a few "precious" things along the way that have outlived their usefulness, but that doesn't mean all that we have carefully built and valued throughout the years will be destroyed or taken away for no good reason. After all, Uranus doesn't really have full permission from the Cosmos to create whatever havoc it pleases!

The Uranian freedom to evoke "meaningful" chaos in the Second is still bounded by our life's practical realities. Therefore, it's no wonder that a tour of this gravity-loving house makes Uranus a little **uneasy**—**there's** too much darn physicality here to deal with, reinforced by the unyielding laws of matter. However, making it in the material world doesn't have to be so dull. Uranus

will teach us to experiment and see what unusual Second House situations we can concoct for ourselves.

At least Uranus sees some of its original ideas translated into tangible form (but remember, it's not a planet that's easily satisfied with anything born of the world of matter). We'll probably have to remind ourselves that absolute physical perfection is not what we should be anticipating at this time. Material form has its limits. Still, this is a house that allows us to use vital Uranian energy to build our visions in realistic terms. Efforts we make can have enjoyable and surprisingly long-lasting results. More on this is found in Chapter Seven.

OUR THIRD HOUSE

Here's a house where Uranus can give us plenty of reasons to stretch our mental potential in order to see how far our childlike curiosity can take us, assuming that extended years of adulthood haven't all but killed off such inquisitiveness within us. Uranus wants us to take advantage of the nosy side of the Third House that Gemini and Mercury have always **enjoyed—the** side that gets us asking lots of direct questions about life: Why this, why that, and how come...? After all, we'll never know anything if we don't at least ask. Of course, the blunt questions Uranus wants answers for are often deemed outrageous and impertinent to those with chronically conservative Saturnian minds. (Uranus forgets that few of the other planets are as unshockable as it is!)

Transiting Uranus does very well with any house (or planet) that enjoys learning something **new—information** that's even "light-years ahead of its time." Now hopefully, after undergoing a few needed material shake-ups and financial turn-arounds, we have established smarter ways of working with our Second House resources (we feel less possessed by what we own and are now a bit freer to enjoy those things we have without insecurity or greediness spoiling everything). It's time to take a break from such worldly concerns and instead turn our attention to feeding our mind fresh, exciting concepts. We're ready to step up our

mental tempo and accelerate our ability to learn as much as we can, most of it being unusual or offbeat subject matter.

Our Third House offers any planet passing through it lots to think about, plenty of options to choose from, and many refreshing ways to express ourselves. Remember, this is the place the airy side of Mercury loves to call home (and air Mercury doesn't care for anything that's dull and lifeless). Variety is important to the Third House. Uranus already intuitively knows that it's going to have more fun here than it did in the Second. It's also obvious that we'll have more opportunities to think about all kinds of speculative topics in our Third than we had in our instinct-driven Second House (where, if you'd ask us why we really want to own something, we may not have thought about it too **much**—it just somehow "feels" right).

Constant change is also a major theme of our Third House experience—here's where we witness many comings and goings, all kinds of simultaneous movement in our immediate environment (like busy traffic). All this kinetic motion is something that excites Uranus, since it knows that here we'll be less likely to find ourselves stuck in rut-bound situations. It's not the nature of this house to want issues to drag on or remain unmodified. This is a life zone that encourages us to make quick adjustments in our day-to-day world and remain flexible to changes around us.

Uranus is an easily-triggered planet when it comes to mental exploration. The Third House loves to learn about everything going on in its surroundings or even about anything that's knowable in general. We get to develop our brain power here and find stimulating ways to educate ourselves. Uranus is very supportive of such efforts, except it often feels the Third House's standard approach to learning is too slow, especially when linear thinking and the old models of logic and reason are used exclusively. Uranus will bypass what it senses would be a time-wasting experience, including the linear process, which seems to be tedious to this planet!

In this house, we'll probably get to learn how to rely more on our intuition and to appreciate the sense of mental quickening it provides. Our Third House tries to point us in many directions that hopefully will vitalize our mind and keep us ever on the

alert. This helps us to rely less exclusively on using those subjective instincts we used when approaching life in our First and Second Houses. In addition, Uranus thinks its intuition is superior to pre-programmed instinct, even if that's not necessarily true. Uranus loves alternatives in life and it already knows how to emotionally detach. Therefore, it's ready to fly high in our Third and give us a exhilarating, much-needed mental tune-up. Chapter Eight gives more details on this subject.

OUR FOURTH HOUSE

If all has gone well, by the time that Uranus enters this house we have learned to think independently. Thanks to our Third House experience, we've allowed ourselves to express Uranian opinions that perhaps have sounded at times either odd to others or else amazingly progressive. (Some of us have also learned how easy it is to shock the unsuspecting!) We probably have become less quick to rush to judgment regarding complex social matters, because we now view them from all sides and with greater tolerance and open-mindedness. We are more accepting of life's paradoxes and contradictions than ever before. This comes in handy when Uranus transits our Fourth House.

This is a critical life zone where the theme of emotional attachment is powerful, where childhood conditioning molds our root behavior in ways we don't even realize, and where we learn to eventually cut the psychological umbilical cord and separate from our parents. We must break away from their powerful influence over our less conscious inner **nature—that** is, if we wish to mature properly and develop an effective self-support system all our own. Severing ties that have an emotional stranglehold on us is very appealing to Uranus (not a very sentimental planet to start with, and one almost phobic about developing long-term close attachments).

No matter what our age and how well we appear to function outwardly as adults, we still may be trapped in various states of **immaturity—as** symbolized by our natal Fourth House **condition—whereby** some of us hunger unrealistically for a womblike sense of a security and protection. We may thus be afraid to face

up to the harsh demands of the world. Therefore, whatever our true potential may be, a few of us turn out to be "late bloomers," if we ever bloom at all. Uranus, a planet that is not emotionally sensitive, transits this house with the intention of removing any thick tangle of roots that has blocked our path to true autonomy. For us to no longer want to be part of certain family dynamics, because they stifle our development, can trigger mixed reactions. Hopefully, by learning to analyze all sorts of contrasting life issues in our previous house, we can now better handle this delicate situation with greater self-honesty and courage.

Our Fourth House experience conditions us to need someone or be needed by them. So far, our first three houses haven't depended as much on intimate human connection for their overall success. But in our Fourth, we cannot live only for ourselves—we may even have trouble living *by* ourselves, because this is a house where we can first feel a sense of loneliness when missing the company of others with whom we've developed a dependent relationship. (We may at least need to have a few pets around to share our space.)

Uranus, however, is wary of human neediness and emotional dependency. It also thinks that living alone without the interference of others is one way for us to guarantee personal freedom. This is a planet that so easily can feel threatened by suffocation when caught up in intimacy-demanding **relationships**—its quick solution is to just hit the road and not look back! But that's not an easy option in this house. Pulling away from others is not what the Fourth is about, initially. Pulling together to create a warm and secure family experience is the objective. We only pull back and retreat from loved ones (especially parents) when they try to swallow us up.

The Fourth implies complications due to the fact that people with whom we've developed powerful security patterns are involved here. Uranus wants us to make a clean break from our past, yet the Fourth knows that we carry the past inside us wherever we go, especially when matters are unresolved. With Uranus, we may squirm a lot in this house while trying to establish breathing space, and yet at the same time we don't want to

feel we've abandoned those we love. Transiting Uranus at least enables us to stir up our unexamined security issues in order to uncover the truth behind our subconscious patterns. See Chapter Nine for more on this.

OUR FIFTH HOUSE

We've plumbed our depths regarding the true nature of our emotional bonds with our family (maybe most so with our mom). As a result, we've learned to pull away from unhealthy entanglements. We realize we're not to encourage too much dependency in our ongoing relationships. Now we're ready to come up for some fresh air and enjoy the sunshine and the blue sky—Uranus loves to see plenty of sky! Our Fifth House happily awaits us with balloons and a welcoming party banner on its door. Crazy, fun people are coming out of nowhere to put a big smile on our face. It's time to laugh out loud and have some fun living out our life.

By now, transiting Uranus has made sure we know ourselves quite well on our inner levels, at least better than before. We now realize that true security comes from within, **just** as we've always heard. Our internal roots are strong and reliable, and are quite capable of feeding us what we need more so than any outside source can (our Fourth House Uranus transit has been a time to take back and own some of what we've projected onto others near and dear). Uranus has made the pathway to our underlying, inner foundation more accessible and less mysterious. If we don't realize this, then we probably won't emerge from our Fourth House experience feeling all that alive and well.

But let's say Uranus' transit was a smashing success (even if our family now thinks we're weird and a little distant). The new mission ahead for Uranus involves triggering an accelerated development of our ego and our individuality. This time we're learning to confidently and cheerfully relate to ourselves with even more self-awareness and courage than we had during Uranus' First House transit. Uranus could now also trine our Ascendant at this point, emphasizing that this is a period of

dynamic self-involvement, one that permits us plenty of untried creative options to explore.

The Fifth House is where we do those things that bring joy into our lives. We can be determined here to have a great time being ourselves and loving it—**especially** when we already like and respect who we are. In this house, it's time to play, and Uranus is ready to show us how exciting quality playtime can be. What Uranus really enjoys about the Fifth House is that it's an area where we benefit ourselves most when we follow our heart and learn to get real with who we are on our own terms.

If we're smart, we won't repress ourselves here or try to go unnoticed. If we want to submerge our greatness and appear humble and self-effacing instead, well, there's always the Sixth House for that kind of attitude awaiting us in our future. While in the Fifth, Uranus will insist on making us shine like never before and in ways that tell the world we're special. (Uranus supports unique self-expression and the Fifth House finds the right stage for us on which to perform.)

However, we cannot become completely self-involved in our own glory in this house, because it's also a place where many of us must deal with raising kids. How we go about relating to them is shown here. Uranus doesn't really like kids (don't forget that old Greek myth) unless they are perfect little self-contained geniuses who don't demand much parental attention and involvement. That's not very realistic. In addition, it smacks of selfishness on Uranus' part (again, this planet gets unnerved by neediness in others, and youngsters are naturally quite dependent on us). But since this is only a transit, parental neglect is less due to flaws in our character and more a case of circumstantial pressures.

Still, dealing with children will become one of the trickier challenges of this Uranus assignment, because our real urge is to get away from all pressing duties and obligations. However, with the right attitude, we can use Uranian energy to bring out the free-spirited child inside us. We can have fun with our children while also having a real good time being adventurous with the world. Chapter Ten provides more information.

OUR SIXTH HOUSE

No party lasts **forever**—it typically runs out of steam shortly after all of the bean dip and salsa have been consumed, and the partygoers realize they are much too spent to carry on (plus, they want to drag themselves home before sunrise). What starts out in our Fifth House as creative exuberance could end up as a nasty case of burnout if we were to allow ourselves to go on and on with our self-indulgent ways. That's one reason why our Sixth House **mer-**rifully follows our Fifth. Even if we are not quite ready to go back to work on Monday morning, necessity says we must. It's not healthy to be without sensible order and purposeful routine for long periods of time, or so warns the Sixth.

This house is concerned with restoring our sanity on the levels of both body and of mind. The Sixth observes how being non-productive and lacking in concrete goals can literally make us sick (an idle mind is the Devil's tool, and all that). Uranus is not too thrilled with the fact that the Sixth House is hung up on life's smallest details, because there can be so many of those scattered about for us to fret over. The Sixth is also a bit too focused on minor tasks at hand and on the proper way to do everything (if you want something to work right). Uranus won't be able to easily handle the Sixth's long list of rules to follow, and instead has other plans for us involving lots of smart short-cuts that make any job easier. However, set procedures often govern the way this house wants to operate. A measure of self-discipline is therefore a must, meaning this house rejects random spontaneity. "Uh-oh, this could be the beginning of years of tedious hard labor," worries Uranus.

Actually, transiting Uranus is sharp enough to know how to convince us that we can bend a few of those time-honored rules by trying out new approaches to problem-solving. A predictable and routine life will not benefit us during this period. In part, this transit is about being inventive in how we handle all-important tasks at hand. We'll learn some amazing stuff regarding how to stay healthy as well, seeing physical fitness as our key to continued freedom of action, especially as we grow older. Illness takes

away our autonomy, something Uranus wants us to cherish forever. We'll just have to be sure we make exercising an exciting thing to do. That ensures we'll stick with it longer than usual.

Our Sixth House is a life zone where we learn practical skills that help us cope with the rigors of daily living. This is supposed to keep us on our toes, alert and ready for whatever comes our way that might upset the manner in which we organize our life. Maybe it's a bit too much to ask Uranus to always come up with practical solutions. This is an experimental planet that seldom gets bent of out shape if the results of its actions aren't always workable—Uranus will simply turn around and brainstorm again using an entirely different approach. Yet the Sixth House implies that we should already be knowledgeable enough and prepared enough so that we'll make few mistakes, if any, the first time around. We can at least minimize errors by being patient and attentive to all details. But that's not Uranus. That's Virgo, the patron sign of this house!

There will be areas where this planet and this house are at odds. Too much unresolved tension due to this can result in the development of health symptoms as manifestations of our stress. But the "house rules" of the Sixth state that whatever we do here has to be something useful and realistic. It must serve a well-defined, functional purpose. Uranus cringes when it hears that word "functional," but heck, perhaps this house is one of those crazy challenges that Uranus will have to accept in the spirit of true growth. We just need to allow ourselves to not become slaves to monotonous procedures, or else Uranus will gladly take his unappreciated genius elsewhere! Before this transit is over, we'll probably learn that serving others doesn't have to be done in ways that make us feel over-obligated and over-worked. Read Chapter Eleven for more.

OUR SEVENTH HOUSE

Flexibility and cope-ability are still going to be our best assets around the time that Uranus enters our Seventh House, because we now must put all of those constructive, useful things we've

just learned in our Sixth House into fuller practice. We can no longer hide behind our paperwork in the office or get lost in our hectic work schedule when the focus is on this house. Someone may be waiting for us to finally come home, get out of our work clothes, and directly relate to him or her. There are less situational distractions to be found in our Seventh, and thus fewer excuses for not having time to more intimately relate to one another. With Uranus ready to stir up a little healthy disruption, this could be a "showdown" time for us!

Our partner in marriage (or otherwise) is often the main reason we will need to test out our new Uranian coping skills (oh, and let's hope we've learned about true tolerance by now, because we'll really need tons of it during the next several years when dealing closely with people). Unlike the First House, our Seventh is where everyone who's not just like us nevertheless requires our complete cooperation. Here we learn to bend and yield to those whose temperaments contrast, but at times complement, our own. Harmony and bliss are not what marriage is really all **about—regardless** of what was said in that runaway bestseller *Venus and Neptune collaborated on—yet* learning to resolve human differences is one unconscious reason why people wed.

What we are really marrying is not just another person, but select, unexamined parts of ourselves that we unknowingly thrust onto that person with whom we then expect to spend the rest of our lives (even if we later fall short of fulfilling that dream). Uranus here signals a time of awakening to our projections, allowing them to be more consciously recognized, and then helping us to determine how they've either enhanced and expanded our self-understanding, or perhaps made us feel trapped in a small, unventilated room with no apparent exit (Uranus' own personal nightmare). Social harmony is a big deal to the Seventh House, but that's not what Uranus is all about. Such harmony sounds too settled and static-producing, even though Venus and Neptune find the thought lovely.

Yet in our Seventh, generally speaking, everything seems to work best when we get things out in the open, where no one is deliberately keeping secrets. Even personal enemies found here,

traditionally, are our "open **enemies**"—those who are directly in our face doing battle with us. Uranus appreciates having all troubling matters exposed and laid out on the table (it apparently doesn't have a sneaky bone in its body). Uranus is, at heart, an advocate of "telling it like it is" rather than keeping anything that disturbs us buried and unaddressed. We must suddenly unload at some point when Uranus triggers a key area of our chart.

Therefore, during this transit, we are forced to be more truthful about our needs and feelings about our partner, and vice versa. We cannot afford to be vague or indirect in our mutual communication if we want our union to survive this transit. Uranus has no real desire to keep a couple together for merely practical, economic reasons if they otherwise really hate each other's guts. Thus, it sees divorce or permanent separation as the quick and obvious remedy. However, if we feel Uranus' drastic solution is the wrong one for us, and that our marriage is salvageable, then we'll have to make an extraordinary attempt to come clean and relate to our partner with an unaccustomed degree of clarity and honesty.

Even that may not be enough to keep us together, because the plain truth Uranus may want us to know is that someone in this relationship has outgrown the **other**—perhaps rapidly so, during this Uranian transit. Still, this is a house that believes in fairness and careful deliberation. Uranus may think it has the right **answer**—just let the person go and move **on**—but if we have natal planets in our Seventh House, we'll find ourselves weighing all sides and not making a final decision easily. Chapter Twelve discusses this topic further.

OUR EIGHTH HOUSE

Sometimes—especially in emotionally complicated, long-standing relationships—not everything that troubles a couple gets to surface and be heard, no matter how much of a ruckus transiting Uranus has previously tried to stir up in our Seventh House. Of course, Uranus takes years to move through any life zone, and when it passes through our Seventh, we and our significant other

become much better at getting things off our chest. We cease playing denial games when it comes to dealing with our biggest marital problems. Our aim is to smash through mutually defensive barriers and confront these problems head-on. Yet if not all gets worked out during such a truth-telling phase in our marriage, we still have another crack at it when Uranus transits our Eighth House. We may also be packing more psychological ammo just in case things turn ugly!

However, at this point, such matters are critical, because there's not too much more time allotted for resolving our differences. Discord (even sexual hostility) has reached deeper levels, and it will take stronger measures to detoxify this union and turn hearts around. A little psycho-surgery may be needed. Uranus really doesn't tolerate the murky, twisted elements of this house (the cruelty, the exploitation, and the underhanded manipulation tactics), but it does love getting a chance to explode now and then! Intense soul-drama is associated with our Eighth, whereby we get to erupt and shoot jets of fire when the internal pressures are too much. Uranus loves a good (but quick) cathartic release, and so it's willing to stick around and further provoke matters until the psychological lids covering our most secret feelings about each other are blown off.

Sex and shared financial resources are two hot Eighth House topics that can get things to suddenly change for better or worse in our relationship. Both issues involve a level of honest, intimate relating and the willingness to ventilate and share our sometimes contrasting needs and feelings. Transiting Uranus will shed needed light on such concerns if we've been operating in the dark. It's not always easy to openly discuss Eighth House desires, since at least one partner may feel vulnerable or defensive and thus may resort to shutting down emotionally. Uranus itself doesn't care all that much about sex (aside from its curiosity about potential thrill or excitement), and is not too interested in everyday money matters. However, it hates to think that certain subjects are forever taboo, totally **off**limits, and therefore not open for free and frank discussion. Uranus is saying, "No more secrets!" in a

house that's famous for covert activity and underground transactions. It'll be tough convincing us to come clean with what we really feel deep down inside.

During this transit, therefore, life will pressure us to confront whatever's been boiling away in our psyche's basement for much too long. The sky god's visit to our private underworld can turn out to be quite interesting, although it's not something psychological weaklings would enjoy! Eighth House processes are much like grueling work-out routines, during which our personal trainer barks, "No pain, no gain!" At least Uranus is always telling us when it's time to detach from our emotions and look at the overview of our situation more dispassionately. Maybe this is a time when we realize that not everything here has to be approached as if we're playing the lead role in a heavy Greek tragedy.

One area of the Eighth House that appeals to Uranus deals with transmuting energy so that we can further open up our doors of perception. How we can contact the less-visible realms of human **experience**—**what** has been called the astral **plane**—is hinted at in our Eighth House. **If you** ever thought about talking to the dead, this is the house for you. Our interest in matters involving life after death and even past lives may be heightened when Uranus is making stimulating aspects from this house. Read more on this in Chapter Thirteen.

OUR NINTH HOUSE

By the time it transits our Ninth, Uranus is more than ready to get away from the intense, pressure-cooker atmosphere of the Eighth House. "Those maniacs can get pretty warped in that swampy **Eighth**—I couldn't wait to blast my way outta there!" Our Ninth is a house where the petty concerns of the small world and the frustrating daily melodramas of being human are put into proper perspective, as we now raise our consciousness to broader realms of spiritual speculation. In the Ninth House, we are no longer stuck on the ground trying just to survive, but are now about to fly into outer space in our search to understand the

ultimate purpose of it **all—what** is existence about, and why? How do we fit into the larger scheme of things?

Uranus, of course, feels right at home in outer space, a place of unlimited expanse and with a relative lack of physical obstacles to hem it in (things get much more congested on the ground level). This transit, therefore, will make us feel as if we have another chance to breathe more fully and become well-oxygenated—but this time it's inspiration that fills our metaphorical lungs. Uranus is a planet of knowing, and the Ninth is an area where we are eager to seek what's worth **knowing**—all those lofty concepts that smack of Universal Truth.

"Truth? Did somebody say Truth?" asks Uranus. Well, now we have this planet's complete attention! Issues belonging to our Ninth House will always fascinate Uranus, a planet with a knack for coming up with brilliant and sometimes outlandish theories to explain away life's cosmological mysteries. During this transit, we have an opportunity to question **our** current beliefs about God and the Universe. In fact, we may be feeling inner intellectual rumbles that suggest we're no longer satisfied with whatever we have put much of our faith into in our past. We are open to new revelations that may just clarify the Big Picture of Life for us.

It's best to just hang loose mentally and not try to replace one dogma for another. Uranus is a little nervous about the Ninth House's tendency to institutionalize collective beliefs (using thought systems to organize people on mass levels). At this time, nothing we discover about religion or metaphysics, no matter how soul-invigorating, should be seen as **conclusive—the** last word on the **matter—because** when we start sounding like that, we can be sure it's not Uranus talking. Uranus never knows where any journey will **end—it** doesn't use maps!

Exploring new worlds arouses Uranus' interest, which is great, because in the Ninth House, the foreign and the exotic become alluring. We feel the call of adventure. This is a time when we can do some of the most fascinating travel we will get to do in our whole life. There might be at least one very special place we get to see before this transit is over (a place that really opens our eyes to how varied and wondrous life on this planet really is).

The Ninth House gives Uranus the stimuli needed to turn on this planet's intuition and its ability to see far into the future. The Ninth itself helps us plug into the world of tomorrow.

Therefore, some of us could end up feeling like visionaries on a world mission before Uranus finally enters the Tenth. Society becomes our laboratory, where we experiment with progressive social concepts that could liberate the consciousness of many. To help this along, we'll just need to get lucky with how and when we network with others. Fortunately, it's in this positive-thinking Ninth House that our "luck" is born and then fed by unlimited optimism! See more about this in Chapter Fourteen.

OUR TENTH HOUSE

After flying high during our Ninth and feeling like a state-of-the-art weather balloon circling the stratosphere (wow, what a view!), we are brought back down to earthier, worldly levels to test out our new theories about society, about spirit, and about the unfoldment of human potential. Yet it might come as a rude awakening to find that the Tenth House is not one that caters to impractical or aimless theorizing.

This is a life zone that expects to see worthwhile, tangible results from sound and fruitful speculation. Anything that is too vague or unstructured, or that results from unrealistic mental journeying in our Ninth, doesn't have much chance of surviving in our no-nonsense Tenth. Here is where the competition can get really stiff, because there's only so much room at the top. Here we test out our ambitions in earnest (as we climb the ladder of success) and, hopefully, become honored for excellence in achievement at some future point. This is where making significant social contributions—perhaps leading to fame—becomes important. This is not a house where we are content to just make a living and get by (that's our Sixth).

Once again, Uranus is in a house where we won't be allowed to go wild with our freedom impulses. The Tenth is another place where "house rules" are strictly **reinforced**—note that it's always in the "earth" houses where Uranus has to tone it down. Our

Tenth House is not only an area where everyone gets to see us taking responsible action in a public manner, it's also where folks get to judge our relevance as a participating member of society. Our performance level needs to be above par if we are to capture positive attention from otherwise unforgiving social critics. Already this sounds like the kind of authoritative pressure Uranus would rather live without!

Our career is perhaps the most dominant issue of our Tenth House. Uranus can suddenly put **our** face on the map of success like never before, because here we can advance quite quickly if we have something unique and exciting to offer the world. That world can simply be our professional field of **operation—our** company. Uranus wants whatever we're offering to be revolutionary, innovative, or at least trend-setting. The Tenth expects, even demands, masterful **expertise—the** result of years of hard work and steady application (this house is Saturn's favorite place of worship).

With Uranus, however, we're unexpectedly electrified with a futuristic vision that's probably never been tested. It takes a lot of guts to convert our vision into a marketable Tenth House format and convince others that this baby has wings to fly! Some of us will succeed beyond anyone's wildest dreams, while **others—**already in it way over our **heads—will** fizzle out in the wink of an eye (or perhaps first we'll have a meteoric rise and then inexplicably disappear forever into the night sky). All of this is the gamble we take when we hitch a wild ride on the tail of dazzling but unpredictable Uranus.

Our Tenth is another parental house (like our Fourth). Uranus has trouble with parenting even when it's not transiting this house. It fears getting caught up in the thick of human dependency with all of the emotional demands that get triggered as a result. However, one thing that is helpful about Uranus in this house is that we can gain greater objectivity when dealing with a **parent—usually** it's our **father—and** look at this person in a new light. Uranus can help us break up parental fixations that rob us of our true autonomy. We can suddenly view our dad quite differently as we start to pull back to reclaim parts of our adult identity. A certain degree of detachment helps us here.

During this transit, we may suddenly stop laying blame on an authority figure for any weaknesses we find in our nature. Uranus would rather we take back the power we unconsciously once gave to such people of our past, and instead begin to take full charge of ourselves and our direction in life (without still seeking parental approval or anticipating parental disapproval and judgment). Read more on this in Chapter Fifteen.

OUR ELEVENTH HOUSE

Finally, Uranus enters a house where it can really kick back, ignore house rules, and do whatever it likes whenever it pleases. This planet's Tenth House transit assignment, which has just ended, had its moments of glory for us and its periods of demanding that we work hard to manifest our uncommon ambitions. At all times, dedication to our vision was essential. Still, Uranus always feels it's being watched and evaluated a little too closely when in the **Tenth—one** wrong move and it could be all over for us as we topple off the mountain peak of fame and acclaim. Of course, by then we could be ready to kiss off the experience anyway and move on to something entirely new. (Uranus never wants us to feel stuck at any stage of the game.) However, all that is behind us now and, assuming we've done well with taking advantage of unexpected Tenth House opportunities, the next transiting phase for this planet is one in which we get to work on experimenting with our own broader potential as a human being (someone more than just a well-known public figure).

The Eleventh House observes how often outstanding worldly success in our Tenth **House—after** a certain **point—requires** too much artificial role-playing, whereby we feel we must live up to a certain cultivated "power image" that keeps society interested in us and in our achievements. This does little to enhance the real individual within. Sometimes in the Tenth, at least for some of us, image and appearance unfortunately mean everything. Achieving elevated status becomes too important a goal.

Therefore, if we wish to come back home to our real self and truly grow, our friendly Eleventh House is ready to greet us with open arms. However, we're not going to be able to function alone

in relative peace and quiet for long here (that's what our Twelfth House promises us). Part of our continued journey in self-awakening will involve our direct exposure to a wide and colorful range of people who are also developing their greater human potential. We still have an ego that needs attention from the world, but now we also find we can get excited about how others show off their special talents and genius ability. With Uranus, we are learning to enjoy such individualists without feeling ego-threatened or overly competitive. Many of the new people we will be meeting and befriending are actually catalysts for our own accelerated development. If they weren't who they already are, we couldn't become what the future says we will be. Approaching these relationships with fear, jealousy, and insecurity makes no sense at all, because Uranus is trying to convince us that everyone involved is in a potential win-win situation.

Uranus passing through the house it naturally rules (in the Aries Rising Wheel) suggests that it's less concerned with appearing in ways that satisfy the System, the Old Guard, or the Silent Majority of supposedly conservative and easily offended citizens. Uranus feels it has no reason to appeal to orthodox viewpoints of any sort, and certainly not at this special time in its cycle. Its urge to shock people out of their complacency might be even stronger than usual, egged on by radical Eleventh House social experimentalism.

However, it's unlikely that many of us will go off the deep end and gamble with drastic non-conformity in our lives. (If we've done our Tenth House transit right, we don't feel as oppressed or held back by society's structures as perhaps we once did, and therefore we are less inclined to defiantly rebel against a life we've already learned to redesign for the better.) The fascinating potential of the future is of greater interest to us than ever. Social idealism that may have subsided within us years ago is now ready to suddenly emerge and give us hope once again about humanity's progressive unfoldment. These can be very special years for us, during which we get to view life and our world from an unconventional angle, but one that helps to truly set us free. Read Chapter Sixteen for more.

OUR TWELFTH HOUSE

A planet as excitement-filled and action-packed as Uranus eventually needs to learn the wisdom of winding down and deactivating itself, without viewing this as some kind of senseless punishment. Sometimes there's not a whole lot to do in the Twelfth House (it's pretty much all been done in our eleven other busier, worldlier houses). Actually, the thought of not always having to manifest itself in concrete terms appeals to Uranus, a planet that now is free to explore more abstract realms of mind and spirit. Transpersonal Uranus is actually more in its true element when in our Twelfth, a life zone where structures and boundaries easily dissolve.

This is the house of our underlying **soul-connection** to the One Source of All Life. It's a house of transcendental reality, where invisible currents and pathways allow various subtle energy-linkages to happen, especially on a less obvious emotional plane (this is also where the Collective Unconscious taps into our being to either inspire or torment us). We are less slowed down by the laws of the physical universe here, something Uranus should love to hear, and thus we can travel at the speed of thought (even at the speed of love) and reach our destinations in a flash (astral projection...soul travel?), all by tuning in to our divine power. At least, that's what those adept at mind-altering spiritual techniques will claim regarding the Twelfth.

Many of our Twelfth House experiences cannot be proven in rational, material terms. That doesn't bother any of the Outer Planets, because they constantly live in relatively dreamlike worlds that seem alien to most of what happens on this planet. Besides, Uranus does feel it's blessed with its own special kind of logic at work, although it's not that **Saturn/Mercury** kind of slower reasoning power that has been hailed as indispensable during the past three hundred years or so. Uranus likes things to happen instantaneously and even simultaneously. In this house, we may have experiences that demonstrate this (but shucks, we're usually alone when such phenomena occur, and thus we can't prove to others that any of it really did **happen**—this is a typical Twelfth House frustration). We'll need to accept that in this house, it's

sometimes going to be only the Cosmos, the angels, and us having a private form of communication that no one else shares.

Actually, there is a bit more work to be done in this house before we can close a megacycle of inner growth, and Uranus may be just the right one for the job. The Twelfth becomes our psyche's storage bin for the many unwanted and neglected parts of ourselves that we've **abandoned—often** because they've been too painful in the past for us to deal with and confront. As in the Eighth House, this can be sticky, unpleasant territory for Uranus to cover. There can be some pretty terrifying thought-forms locked away in our personal unconscious as a result of unprocessed phobias and traumas experienced in the past. Yet with so much trapped psychological energy involved in this suppressed and repressed material, Uranus feels it must take on the idealistic role of our soul's liberator.

Thus, during this transit, we may experience breakthrough after breakthrough, and may exorcise the ghosts and demons that otherwise haunt us and keep us feeling anything but whole. The outer world may not realize all the inner explosions in consciousness we are going through, since the results of all this may not be apparent to others for quite some time. Still, some personal revelations at this time can be radically life-altering. It's little wonder that some of us are more than ready to undergo a major overhaul in behavior by the time Uranus begins its cycle again in our First House. For more on this read Chapter Seventeen.

There will be more to say about Uranus' transit activity in all our natal houses soon. However, as we begin Part Two, let's first get a better feel for the basic temperament of Uranus itself and what we can generally expect when it transits various factors in our birth chart.

PART TWO

OUR AMAZING URANUS TRANSITS

THE THRILLS AND SPILLS OF FREEDOM

COSMIC THUMBNOSE

Of all the planets and other celestial bodies currently applied to the birthchart in modern astrology, none seem to compare to the wild and woolly ways of galvanizing Uranus. This planet is like a high-octane version of Jupiter, except with more brains and will than heart and soul. It's not patient in seeking knowledge and meaning—it would rather smash through the mind's Saturnian barriers, by storm if need be, to uncover the real Truth behind *anything*. It wants a shot at having an exhilarating “*Eureka!*” experience.

Uranus seems to have little respect for our human need for consistency and permanence. It acts as the joker or wild card in our psyche's make-up, providing an element of surprise. It's also a Cosmic Thumbnoser, ignoring established applications of reason in favor of its own unique brand of “logic.” However, its actions are typically inexplicable to those who abide by the old format of linear Mercury mentality. Uranus also has little desire to first go through standard protocols of behavior or normal channels of conduct set up by regulatory Saturn.

This maverick planet feels under no obligation to apologize for ignoring the rules and abruptly shifting its focus when the urge

hits. Its nature is to dart from point to point in an unpredictable manner. This may seem wayward and "just plain crazy" to convention-bound observers. Nevertheless, Uranus has its own unique sense of *knowing* that enables it to rip through the veils of ambiguity and illusion in order to see and understand things with unmatched clarity. I call it the "flash and zap" factor. Perhaps it is this one feature of Uranus that proves disturbing and disruptive to our ordinary waking consciousness. We don't always appreciate being shown such sharp-edged, uncompromising takes on reality, especially when they abruptly intrude on our long-held assumptions. To top it off, Uranus flashes and zaps with lightning speed and brazen force, which also proves unsettling.

MAD SCIENTIST

Instead of dissolving or annihilating form, Uranus would rather break things up and play with rearranging the pieces into new, original patterns (it excitedly reforms old, tired structures). The end results can seem weird and bewildering. Even mythological Uranus had offspring that were freakish looking, so much so that this repulsed sky god banished them. Of course, times have changed: Uranians are more apt to be turned off by people or things that look and act too ordinary. Astrological Uranus can show a marvelous sense of inventiveness in how it reassembles whatever becomes a target of its intensified interest. The spirit of innovation is alive and well with this daring "I'll-try-anything-once" planet.

For Uranus, life is one big experiment where we get to play "mad scientist" at times. We just need to give ourselves permission to adopt this planet's unusual perspectives more often in our lives and with a greater sense of inner commitment and fortitude. But don't expect society to applaud our offbeat Uranian efforts or even comprehend them, at least at first. True Uranians stand apart from those who uphold moderate mainstream approaches to living. It takes courage not to always graze with the herd and thus forfeit the benefit of safety in numbers; yet to persistently stand apart from the crowd invites unwanted social problems.

However, thank goodness Uranus is loaded with such needed courage, made stronger by its ability to mentally detach at will and remain fearless.

So far, Uranus sounds quite **interesting**—a real character! Who *wouldn't* want at least a small dose of its high-charged energy running through his or her veins to liven things up in an otherwise humdrum day-to-day world? The problem is that we humans typically want to control the flow of the unexpected in life much too much; such an attempt only robs this planetary principle of its special electric vitality. Similarly, mythological Cronus (Saturn) castrated his uncaring father Uranus, robbing him of his (pro)creative potency. Cronus then went on to restore order by ushering in a “**Golden Age**” of stability and peace. However, peacefulness and predictability are usually not what transiting Uranus brings to our current situations.

CREATIVE CHAOS?

The “human” within us is baffled by Uranus’ “off-the-wall” principle. What is the possible benefit of periodic disruptions of our carefully laid plans? Why should anyone have to suffer personal “earthquakes” in the name of growth? What’s so wrong with sticking to past tried-and-true ways of handling life? They worked then, so why quit on them now? What’s so great about flirting with the fickle fates of the Great Unknown? Isn’t chaos usually destructive in nature rather than creative?

Inquiring minds want to know but, unfortunately, Uranus’ transits do not waste time answering such questions for us. They instead get right to work scanning the deadbeat or dormant factors of our inner make-up and our outer situational **affairs—and** in no particular order of importance (which makes these transits all the more perplexing). Once a sudden opportunity has popped up for this planet to strike, Uranus shakes up any outworn pattern we’ve become mired in, seemingly at random. Expect Uranus to work swiftly and unambivalently.

If you really want to experience a more robust thrust of Uranian energy, go out of your way to stifle change and progress

in your life. That's right. Refuse to experiment with new avenues of self-expression. Shun all state-of-the-art technologies and at all times be mulish and do things the slow, hard way. However, then you'd better be prepared to put on your seat belt and let the roller coaster ride **begin—for** you have thus set yourself up for a major vulnerability that will unpredictably activate the Uranus principle. This planet will be compelled to unstabilize things for you in no uncertain terms during its next major transit.

It may do so even during a significant synastric contact (when a notable Uranus aspect forms between two people's natal charts). That other person may be the perfect Uranian trigger we've needed for so long. Still, we may be quite unprepared for the directness of our unexpected behavioral reactions (while we likely claim, somewhat apologetically, to be acting "out-of-character"). It's probably a good idea to expose ourselves to a little Uranian energy on a more regular basis as we age, so it can eventually feel somewhat more familiar to us and thus less alienating later during this planet's pivotal moments in our life.

FLYING MACHINE

We also can project much of our own transiting Uranian needs onto others, especially strangers, who then present us with this planet's provocative energies at full strength. That can prove to be either fascinating or shocking for us, depending on how much and for how long we have repressed our own Uranian potential to live a liberated life thus far. What is our basic attitude toward people who are different from us and from our family background? How do we feel about trying new things out of the blue? In general, it's good to have inner dialogues regarding such issues long before Uranus whirls an erratic path into our life, stirring up everything thought to be solid, stable, and everlasting, and bringing in fresh new faces and circumstances. Some amazing changes may be in the air that could leave us feeling displaced on some level should we completely be caught off guard.

Such a Uranus transit can be a time for us to feel stunned and jolted out of our complacency. And for once, we are not allowed to

manipulate much of the outcomes in store. If we were, we'd get in the way of our own best chance for true progressive freedom. We'd let insecurities and self-doubts take over and stop us from making new moves and letting go of old and needlessly heavy baggage. Therefore, Uranus grabs that dumb black control box from us and reuses its parts to invent a mind-powered flying machine instead!

My point is that Uranus will opt for a better, more ingenious way to help us out of our stale ruts and heavily mismanaged Saturn scenarios. Actually, for some of us, our intuitive self is probably now allowed a chance to be in the driver's seat for a while. We may not even need to buckle our seat belt this time. In fact, we'll soon be doing some mental hang-gliding!

RISKY BUSINESS

To go willingly with Uranus' challenging agenda is to open ourselves to greater levels of spontaneity. Like Jupiter, Uranus thrives on risk (although Jupiter is more conservative regarding the chances it will take, because it always wants to come out on top as a winner). Uranus values the thrill of sudden change for its own sake, even if the end results bomb. Uranus' energy is paradoxical in that it can be fired up and electrified in its driven urges one moment, then detached and totally disinterested the next. It plugs into the "peak" stage of any action or condition but may then quickly withdraw its focus shortly thereafter. However, real life is not one continuous string of exciting, charged-up peak experiences. That would eventually prove to be exhausting. We'd always be too sleepless, high-strung, and wired-up, not to mention having that shocked look on our faces and our hair standing on end. Folks would think we just pulled our finger out of an electric socket!

Expect Uranus' transits to stimulate intense but short-lived interests in people and situations that offer us a momentary opportunity to break up our routine patterns and introduce fresh social stimulation. We need to seize the moment and try out a few different approaches* to handling our existing circumstances before the opportunity peaks out and Uranus abruptly demands

another (unrelated) avenue of release. We can't afford to sit on our Uranus potential too long and mull things over or procrastinate until we think we feel absolutely sure about things. There are no guarantees of security with Uranus and it's doubtful if our timing under its influence ever feels completely right. Usually our actions feel premature and a little half-baked.

WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES!

Part of any dynamic Uranus experience seems to be the unsettled feeling in the pit of our stomach along with the rousing adrenaline rush this transit **pumps—even** when we feel positive and excited about making changes. Uranus needs us to be sufficiently revved up and ready for the break-ups and breakthroughs in our personal life that its transits help instigate. This doesn't have to be a weird or bizarre experience for us, but we *will* need to approach life with a gutsy straightforward attitude that we seldom have shown in our past.

Uranus is like Saturn on steroids, with a bit of an attitude problem at times. Like Saturn, it signals our need to let go of the unworkable, stagnant features of our lives. It also speeds up this process and urges us to adopt an "I don't care, it's gotta **go...now!**" stance when confronting the blocks and barriers we have created or have unconsciously allowed our personal environment to erect. Saturn carefully eliminates what is no longer needed, while Uranus triggers swifter removals. Remember, it's the planet of dramatic lightning strikes. Sudden turnabouts in our affairs are common during Uranus transits, as the old and the obsolete are quickly shattered and left behind, especially if they've had a stranglehold on our freedom urges for too long.

What might take their place depends on our attempt to know the "truth" of our individual selfhood. Living an authentic life free of socially conditioned self-distortions seems to be an ultimate goal for this planet. Achieving this requires a lot of courage and the willingness to go against the grain. Uranus will always go the opposite way of wherever mass consciousness wants to go, and thereby experiences exclusion from status quo endorsement. Of

course, a Uranus transit doesn't have to mean a drastic change of status for us. In less vivid ways, we can free up our energies and psychologically rearrange our priorities in order to support our individualism and further experiment with our potential.

CALL OF FREEDOM

Uranus suggests that we learn to wing it alone, without our former dependencies, at least until we better reorient ourselves. **Uranus/Venus** transits pose a problem here, because Venus (our urge to merge) has needs contrary to what Uranus strives for (our will to separate and be free). We could fall hard for someone during such a transit and then later realize we'd do better being alone. Perhaps the partner we choose soon gives us that old Uranus "gotta be free" **routine—that distancing act—and** quickly drops out of our (emotional) life, leaving our heart shell-shocked. Somehow, we are to learn not to lean on others for the wrong reasons. We are instead to discover what we can do for ourselves on our terms. There will be more about this later. Regarding the progressive potential of any Uranus transit, we have a special opportunity to rid ourselves of repressive or oppressive elements in our lives and thereby open ourselves to a new, exciting world of promise.

URANUS TRANSITING A NATAL HOUSE

Although Uranus stays in a sign for about seven years, its passage through any of our natal houses depends on the size of those houses (and thus the house system we use). In my **Placidus-calculated** chart, because of intercepted signs, Uranus took only five years to whiz through my high-flying Ninth House, but it took eleven years to explore the nooks and crannies of my Sixth. In my case, Sixth House matters apparently need a long time to properly develop and unfold (the energies of three signs are contained within this **house—just** like its opposite, the **Twelfth—adding** to

its complexity). All transiting planets take their sweet time cruising through this situational zone of my chart. Pluto took a whopping nineteen years, a long time considering it was already moving through signs associated with the speeding up of its orbital cycle. Anyway, it's good to establish the length of each natal house, especially if you plan to make it to age eighty-four (symbolizing a Uranus Return) and even beyond.

The *transiting sign* of Uranus is a secondary influence of less personal importance. It can give us clues about exciting dynamic themes that are trying to burst forth from within the collective unconscious. That means, in theory, everyone is tapping into a little of this sign's influence according to the dictates of Uranus. This typically becomes more noticeable when given a larger societal **focus**—a major humanitarian goal, an important social cause, a cultural revolution, a technological breakthrough, and so on. Sometimes this sign will play into the dynamics of the house Uranus is transiting. Most times, it doesn't.

In general, our transited house takes on a new orientation marked by a greater willingness to let go of the obsolete and to try out avenues of expression that offer more freedom of action. Not all of us, however, will rise to the occasion, because it takes guts to live out Uranian energy. Should we take a passive approach to these house matters, and we often do, life will make sure that Uranus' energy plays out through a wide assortment of people and predicaments that challenge us to let go of our increasingly monotonous behaviors. Actually, Uranus seems to specifically attack those factors of the transited house where we have resisted change and adaptation the most. Yet with this planet, it's best to expect the unexpected at all times.

Remember that Uranus takes quite a while to explore any house. That suggests we don't have to revolutionize everything about our current lifestyle overnight regarding the house affairs in question. But neither should we just sit on this energy with a tentative wait-and-see attitude. At some point, we will have to make a conscious commitment to embrace the future and the unaccustomed changes implied. This doesn't have to be frightening. In fact, it's often illuminating (as flashing light bulbs of

insight start to turn on inside our head, dispelling many of life's troublesome, dark shadows).

Typically, after the Uranus transit has come and gone, we look back a few years later and think, "Gee, why didn't I make such changes long before this transit? Why was I so insecure? I'm like a new person now with some exciting things in my future. Nobody is ever going to hold me and my potential back again!" Of course, that's what we innocently say while we're still feeling high on life (that "oh wow!" phase), at least until our next major Pluto transit stalks **us—ha!**

Still, we can't deny the amazing feeling of release many of us experience once we have had a successful sweep of Uranus through a natal house (and perhaps even over a few planets in that house). Of course, with such liberation come several new responsibilities brought about by our major **readjustments**—Saturn is always keeping score it seems, taking meticulous notes and restoring a workable balance. (Doesn't that old geezer ever take a break?)

URANUS TRANSITING A NATAL PLANET

House affairs are circumstantially limited by our actual current environment and the historical times in which we live. In this respect, there is an element of fate that creeps into the picture (situational factors are not under our direct control or subject to our manipulation). We are apt to feel like a part of our destiny is in the hands of a complex but capricious Universe. That's a bit unsettling for us. When and where will lightning strike next? Zap! We usually don't feel totally responsible for any personal Uranian turn of events, knowing that others have played a catalytic role in their outcome. And sometimes, startling things just happen without any rhyme or reason. Logical frameworks collapse.

However, when it comes to our natal planets, look out! Here is a symbolic part of ourselves, operating very much on the level of

character, not circumstance. When transiting Uranus triggers one of our natal planets, an inner part of our psyche is stimulated to react according to its current degree of development (not an easy thing to figure out just by looking at the chart). What's important to realize is that a planet is a more potent factor in the chart than either a sign or a house. Although I love the Zodiac and its rich and colorful symbolism, I can still accept that planets are even more powerful indicators of attitudes and behavioral response.

Therefore, Uranus contacting one of our natal planets is potentially a big deal. It all depends on how we register Uranian energy and attempt to introduce it to our internal drives and urges as symbolized by the natal planet in question. Uranus will try to challenge the status quo of existing patterns we have allowed ourselves to develop according to our (limited?) understanding of this natal planet. This doesn't have to result in a major seismic shock, but it at least suggests that a few inner rumbles may be felt.

The interpretations to follow demonstrate the influence of transiting Uranus interacting with each of the twelve primary principles of astrology (Principle One = Mars, Aries, the First House; Principle Two = earth Venus, Taurus, the Second House, and so on). I will cover, for example, Uranus going through the First House and Uranus aspecting Mars in the same chapter (but not Uranus going through Aries) and continue in that way for the transits of the remaining houses and their associated planets. Remember, reading about Uranus transiting a planet may sometimes shed additional light on Uranus transiting its correlating house in the Natural Wheel (the prototype with Mars ruling Aries on the First, Venus ruling Taurus on the Second, and so forth) and vice versa. Also consider the actual house or houses ruled by that planet in your birthchart.

A planet and its corresponding house (Moon and the Fourth, Sun and the Fifth, and so on) do not share *identical* traits or functions. Planets basically represent inner states of consciousness or components of our psyche (only in an individual's birthchart, since they wouldn't mean such things in a corporate business

chart, for instance). Houses are highly situational, mostly external, and dependent on the development of our cultural environment and the historical times in which we live. We can talk about certain issues in each house *now* that we could not have discussed in the 1950s; they didn't exist then. Who knows what the next century will provide? No doubt, there will be more circumstantial complexity. Houses give us an objective look at our inner planetary processes.

Because planets symbolize things closer to **home**—**facets** of our interior **self**—**we** feel them more directly and personally. When they are triggered by transit, we first internalize the results even if we then immediately project the energy onto people and outer situations. Uranus crossing over a natal planet is often more dramatic in emphasis than when it passes through a house and apparently aspects nothing (although if planetary midpoints are used, Uranus gets to aspect even more sensitive degrees). The themes of the Uranus-planet combination in question are more pinpointed and are often in need of resolution, urgently so if squares and oppositions are involved.

Undergoing a major Uranus transit means we cannot rely on well-established, social guidelines to figure out what to do or how to respond to matters at hand. We are very much on our own to come up with "creative" solutions to our existing situations. But Uranus isn't always so intuitive about things. Often, we simply get aggravated with the spirit-squelching routines of mundane living, and we react by venting Uranus in rash, volatile ways. To stimulate this planet's more enlightened features, we'll first need to take a look within and determine if we are obstructing our growth due to narrow or false self-concepts. Also, the more we let other people construct an image of who we are supposed to be, the less in touch with Uranus we become, and the more out of sorts we feel with ourselves.

The good news is that our urge to improve our circumstances is strong with this planet. We will likely have an eventful turning point that rearranges our priorities and clears the path for living more authentically and, for once, according to our own rules.

Uranus is not big on cooperation if that really means giving in to the will of others just to keep the peace and assure their approval. We will need to realize that, as we further individualize during our Uranus transits, we run the risk of breaking up our existing patterns of relating. That means some people leave the scene (sometimes in a huff) due to their inability to handle our changes. At other times, we are the ones who bolt out the door and never look back. It can feel like a period in our life when the only support we can count on is self-support. Later, however, we'll reap the rewards of living an independent lifestyle that's more suited to who we really are.

URANUS TRANSITING THE FIRST HOUSE

A FREER IDENTITY

Transiting Uranus in the First House is not something everyone will experience, especially if natal Uranus is already in our First or Second. We have to be at least eighty-four years old to be able to claim that Uranus has done its job on every house and planet in our chart (in every aspect formation possible). The First deals with identity issues and the quasi-conscious development of our self-image. What we manage to assemble regarding our self-presentation is here continuously put forth for others to directly encounter. The general response from others is symbolized in part by both our Descendant sign and planets in our Seventh House, especially planets nearest this angle. Much of what we automatically act out at the Ascendant occurs when we're actively engaged in our day-to-day environment, most so when we must immediately respond to a **situation—similar** to the way our Mars behaves.

Uranus crossing the Ascendant would qualify as the beginning of a needed surface identity make-over; this could feel like a personal breakdown of sorts for those who've been in deep ruts or long-term holding patterns of inhibition and stagnation. Our

repetitive Ascendant responses to life are very subjective and are tied to survival defenses we've learned to use early in our lives. For example, Libra Rising defends itself by becoming "the other" for the moment in order to keep a dynamic harmony alive between people. Leo Rising defends itself by putting on a warm and entertaining show to defuse possible enemies and the threat of rejection. Pisces Rising's self-defense is to change personalities and blend into the immediate **environment**—it socially survives by using appealing camouflage to charm others into lending a helping hand rather than raising a fist. The problem with our Ascendant is that we get too good at turning on these readily available personas; because of this, we become reluctant to modify them as we grow older. They can become stale and even regressive should they conflict with the objectives of our Sun sign (symbolizing our ongoing conscious **self-unfoldment**).

Wherever we become too predictable in behavior is exactly where Uranus will want to generate a few frictional sparks. Our Ascendant self-image is thus a perfect candidate for this planet's experimental energies. Uranus crossing back and forth over our Ascendant (taking up to twenty-one months in some cases when applying a 1° orb) can be a time of remarkable **self-discovery**. It can also feel as if our whole world is suddenly crashing down around us and making a lot of noise!

Those of us with weak identity structures or rigidly defined personas seem to provoke Uranus' volatile energy the most, triggering this planet to play havoc with our lives. The more insecurely we have handled ourselves up until this point, the greater the pounding we may get when Uranus shakes, rattles, and rolls us. Uranus is a natural fog-destroyer, helping us to emerge from spells of muddled confusion. It pushes for clarity and self-knowledge. However, we can't expect to take advantage of this planet's best assets if we continue to remain timid, cowardly, or riddled with self-doubt. Uranus is now asking us to set our sights on a brilliant future that we can create for ourselves with a measure of courage and complete self-honesty. Those of us with fixed rising signs need to be especially aware that our stubbornly persistent

ways of emerging into the world will probably *not* be further supported during this transit (that even goes for Aquarius, which often advocates progressive yet *inflexible* ideals for society to rebuild itself on).

ELBOW ROOM

If we knew more about ourselves at this **time**—if we could flash to an overview of our life and where we're **going**—we would have little trouble recognizing that Uranus is trying to introduce us to a vibrant, new strategy for coping with life, one that permits ample freedom of thought and spontaneity of action. We'd also clearly see that, in the past, we have unwittingly held ourselves back from expressing our greater potential. This sounds similar to transiting Jupiter conjuncting our Ascendant, except that Jupiter evokes a warm, optimistic glow that encourages us to become an eager participant in the bigger, expanding world around us. Gregarious Jupiter needs its joy-filled people-connections to help it expand its level of social influence.

However, Uranus is not a planet associated with such warmth or sociability. Its evolutionary process enables us to separate from any direct identification with the masses (who collectively function on a **Saturn/Moon** level). Uranus' growth process can make us appear at times cold and aloof, although highly individualized. We may not endear ourselves to others during this transit, although we can fascinate people while we also keep our distance. We may wish to be involved in important collective projects, but only as long as we can retain our autonomy and our newly awakened style of operating. If not, we probably will pull away from any group or network that tries to lay down set standards or rules of expected participation. We can be in a **self-enthused**, spear-heading mood and are eager to do things never tried before (the First House supports the pioneering, innovative actions of Uranus). Tightly organized setups run by others who are sticklers for following traditional procedures appear to only slow us down and frustrate our vision. Why mess with them? We need to be around people with big ideas about tomorrow!

INDEPENDENT STREAK

We may feel driven to go out on a limb and be a trailblazer. At all times, however, Uranian energy seeks to remain free and unfettered. This sounds great for us, but our existing circumstances and relationships may have a problem with that. Their problem, in the beginning, soon becomes *our* problem, until we reach a point of utter rebellion or indifference. It's unlikely that we'll want to give in to the will of another at this time. The challenge is to not be discouraged from taking independent action, but to also be fairly reasonable in the pursuit of our new and exciting ventures.

Uranus is paradoxical in that it can be intensely interested in furthering social progress, but not all that interested in personally bonding with the individuals who make up any loose social unit. It doesn't want to relate closely to people and later find that the intimacy that results gets in the way of freedom. We can, therefore, give mixed messages. One moment we can be passionately involved with human issues, and the next we're strangely detached and inaccessible. Some of us find ourselves wanting a lot of space in all relationships and are uneasy dealing with the dependency needs of others. We may have little inclination to fulfill such needs, and anyone who tries to cling to us now might be subject to a rude awakening.

BROKEN BOND

Because of the separative tendencies of this transit—Uranus initially is also opposing our Descendant—in some of our existing unions we could feel mentally disconnected, which especially affects our partner's emotional security. Restless, we feel an urge to divorce ourselves from those people and situations that have either pigeon-holed us in the past or that still continue to box us in. The rest of the chart can describe whether or not we have the overall temperament to quickly bolt out of any committed but dull relationship, or whether we will anxiously wait for the right time to make our getaway. Meanwhile, we may feel like climbing the walls. Because Uranus often provides us with an urgent need to alter our

patterns, attending to our normal, daily routines becomes an unwanted distraction. We may find ourselves, as a result, running around like the "absent-minded professor."

THE BURSTING POINT

With lots of natal *fire-air* placements in our chart, this Uranus transit suggests a high degree of impatience, fed by an inner storminess regarding the status quo of our lives. This evokes much willfulness on our part and a demand for sudden, unequivocal change. We cannot take one more day of boredom and pointless conventional activity. Some of us, at this juncture, are willing to dump our past with little hesitancy and start a new life as a completely different person, perhaps with an experimental new look and a spunkier attitude about living life *our way*.

Those of us who are less bold and openly defiant (heavy *earth-water* types) will opt for gradual, maybe sporadic, attempts at freedom, at least until we have built up enough nerve to break away from dependencies we've finally outgrown. It takes earth-water folks longer to feel secure about making any kind of change. In some cases, we could start becoming very intuitive about our personal needs. This may seem a little uncomfortable if we've never before listened to our inner voice or allowed ourselves to follow our hunches (in this regard, our contrasting impulses pull us in opposite directions). Both elements are heavily caught up in security issues; therefore, Uranus can feel like quite an unsettling force. But once we have determined that the time is right to fly the coop, nothing can hold us back. Acts of rebellion can become very deliberate, backed by unwavering self-will.

OUR LITTLE PARADOX

It is important to realize that here we have a transpersonal planet operating in the most personal and self-contained of all houses. While we're learning to identify with a force that furthers the impersonal goals of collective evolution, we're also realizing the strength of our own individuality and how it makes us separate

and different from anyone else. We're homing in on qualities that allow us to stand apart from the rest and to refuse to lose our identity in another. This transit doesn't necessarily "spiritualize" us, if that term only means making us more altruistically concerned with universal human issues (although this transit can and does suggest this for those who already love being on crusading social missions). Instead, Uranus puts its focus on how we can relate to ourselves with more clarity and authenticity in an often uncompromising quest for our life's truth.

A degree of self-infatuation can be noted as we unfold in ways we never thought **possible—ways** that make us more interesting than ever. This time period signals a very personal revolution, during which we will want to shake off the undue influence of people and situations that stifle our self-expression in the long run. Both the First House and Uranus can be self-preoccupied when taking action; bending over backward for the sake of others is not part of the psychology of transiting Uranus in the First. We'll need to make sure we aren't too willful and uncooperative, or else people will gladly avoid relating to us any more than is absolutely necessary. We can appear too temperamentally difficult to be around. We can become high-strung and even exasperating, especially during those times when Uranus squares a natal planet and we find ourselves rubbing others the wrong way with our unyielding attitudes. On the plus side, we can appear magnetically vital to others, who then find themselves excited and motivated in our presence to also act vigorously independent and willingly adventurous.

MIND EXPLOSION

Uranus passing through the First can mean we're ready to turn on our intuitive abilities, which in turn can encourage us to make fresh starts in life. Some of us, already pros at doing this intuition thing, will simply use our Uranus transit to really "bust loose" as if on an extrasensory perception (ESP) frenzy. We could feel especially telepathic and be filled with an uncanny knowing. Many

things suddenly seem transparently clear to us. This could be a time when we'll need to let our flashes of insight guide us toward our newly emerging objectives. Uranian intuition by its own nature is interruptive, not gently flowing. It typically comes at awkward times, usually when we're trying to concentrate on something else, often something quite mundane. Uranian lightning strikes without **warning—zap!** Some of us unfamiliar with this way of receiving information will need to adjust to its urgent abruptness. If we prefer a smoother, meandering stream of intuition, we'll have to wait instead for a major Neptune transit. Uranus is more a wild-eyed god whose intuitive power crackles with electrical vitality.

SHARP SHOOTER

After several years of this transit, we may find we're not easily fooled by anything or anybody. Uranus is idealistic, but seldom gullible. We can quickly sense that which is false. We just need to "obey" our intuitive hunches and not let rational analysis detour us; we know what we know even if we can't sensibly explain why! If we have natal planets in our First, Uranus will want to give each one it conjuncts a dose of truth serum. That means we'll have to come clean about our real motives regarding issues symbolized by each planet in question. We'll need to become more honest in dealing with how we're handling what that planet internally means to us.

Uranus wants us to be relatively illusion-free by the time this transit is over, which is asking a lot of us. To eventually get to our inner truth, we'll battle against much social conditioning. None of this happens without some degree of internal disruption and the unnerving feeling that some situations are way beyond our control. It seems as if fate is taking a few potshots at us at times. Our ego is not always going to have its way when Uranus runs the show. We'll need to let life redirect our energies toward unfamiliar areas where we may surprise ourselves with unexpected abilities.

A BOLDER LOOK

How we package our general appearance can be shown by the First House. Uranus could indicate we're ready for a new and sometimes bold look. After many years of enduring the same old boring way we present ourselves to others (whether it's a three-piece suit or motorcycle gang attire), trying out different hairstyles or wardrobes can suddenly appeal to us. Maybe we have already been pretty wild and unconventional in **appearance—perhaps** born with a **Venus/Uranus** aspect squared by **Neptune—but** we now dare to be shockingly conservative in how we look. We could even be more interested in heavy **metal—wearing** it in the most unlikely places, that is. Unsettling others with large tattoos, multiple skin piercings, and dyed eyebrows becomes a brazen Uranian act of unconventionalism, defiant expressions that a few of us might daringly employ to show off our newfound individualism. (Others may simply and quietly switch from boxers to briefs!)

Perverse Uranus will always try to shatter other people's expectations, keeping less gutsy folks scratching their heads in amazement; it's a planet that can make at least a few jaws **drop**—especially when some of us leave trendy uptown salons with streaks of silvery magenta in our hair or a bleached blonde buzz cut contrasted by dark sideburns. Rock stars and radical performance artists could obviously have a blast with Uranus transiting their First. Maybe a simple tiny rainbow tattoo on our Uranus-ruled ankle is all we really need to make a social statement on behalf of free souls everywhere. Shaving our head is optional.

URANUS/MARS TRANSITS

BLOWING UP

For some of us, Uranus transiting our natal Mars could be a time akin to opening Pandora's box. The lid covering our inner issues regarding self-assertion and aggression can now fly open, and out can come those stored-up passions and even hostilities we've normally managed to keep under wraps. That's especially true if we

have assumed ourselves to be the detached, cool-headed types who seldom get our feathers ruffled. If so, Uranus has a few surprising announcements for us regarding our closeted anger potential. The truth is that even a brainy rocket scientist can get steaming mad and want to throw a fit, at least once in a while. It's a very human (even animal) part of us that we see at work whenever our Mars is aroused. Since Uranus doesn't want us to hold back from expressing ourselves, it enables us to be as furious as we need to be. Getting things off our chest can be very important to us during this period.

Expect a degree of temperamentalism. We can be easily irritated, with a tendency to flare up from time to time in a manner that startles or dumbfounds others (as well as ourselves). If we already are known as a hot-head who flies off the handle a lot (we'd rather call it being "feisty"), then this Uranus transit could spell danger. It all depends on how physically impulsive or impatient we are, as well as how headstrong. Such a volatile mixture of planetary traits can cause trouble. We can have fiery outbursts that others find memorable, even though *we* may quickly brush off such scenes. For a few of us, a bigger danger here is giving in to an urge to smash things to bits and attack innocent **bystanders**—maybe with a high-tech laser pointing device! Senseless fury is a horrible way to relieve the internal pressures we may feel at this time; we must explore more constructive outlets to help us get our intense feelings across. Uranus/Mars can also be an accident-prone combination due to our own hasty or headstrong actions. We can get ourselves in trouble by ignoring the rules and trying to get away with stuff. We could be bold in inappropriate ways or at unsafe times, almost as if we're too detached to recognize the consequences of such behavior.

REVVING IT

We don't easily **find** appropriate Uranian channels to use up our Mars energy reserves, and such energy ends up spilling over into areas that do not benefit from our overdrive. Uranus renders Mars energy hard to control and direct. We might not wish to be

told what to do by anybody, and therefore we may flirt with law-breaking behavior. To avoid problems, we'll need to be more conscious of all impulsiveness during this transit, as well as more aware of the details or restrictions involved before making our moves. We certainly should not push others or force issues, because the response we get could prove unexpectedly aggressive and powerful.

Mars enjoys a good Uranus transit in most cases, because it anticipates that life won't be boring and that nothing will remain still for long. This is a great time to try out new things. If the transit is a square, quincunx, or opposition, just take the proper precautions before plunging into any desired activity; remember not to go overboard and get reckless with energy expenditure. Mars wants to keep active while Uranus demands a lot of mental stimulation. We could get much done in short spurts of busyness (those famous Uranian "peak" periods). It can be a great transit for first clearing out the cluttered elements of our lives before embarking on new enterprises. Each of us personally knows those specific areas of life where we've allowed matters to pile up or remain stagnant. This transit can stir things into motion, resulting in a clean sweep of whatever might hold us back or slow us down in the future. That can also mean people who get in our way and put up roadblocks to thwart our self-expression, although most relationships typically are Venusian issues.

THOSE SEXUAL SPARKS

Excitement comes to mind with this transit, and sexuality is certainly a factor of our being that can appreciate varying degrees of excitement. However, the problem here is that Uranus demands a variety of completely different experiences to prevent boredom and restlessness. We may find ourselves less willing to uphold the virtues of monogamy (if only in our heads). Those who are married will have to brainstorm new ways to spark up their love life and keep the flame of desire going. With Uranus, whenever disinterest enters the picture, physical desire for a familiar partner can be the first to make a quick exit. Yet passion shared with a

complete stranger in a chance encounter can open the flood gates of arousal like never before. It's not always easy to figure out where Uranus is coming from when it pulls little stunts like this on unsuspecting humans, catching everyone off guard and making otherwise mature people throw caution to the wind.

Sex under this transit is less complicated for those who are single and interested. That still doesn't mean it makes any more sense. This transit may prompt us to experiment with our desires if we're already not the shy type. However, even the timid can suddenly blossom. At this time, we're capable of highly irregular **attractions**—*erotica erratica*. Oddly enough, sexual activity itself can become a source of our boredom. We may choose to put it "on the shelf for a while as we redirect our excitement more toward unexplored mental territory. This befits Uranus, a planet that is seldom satisfied anyway with the results of earthy, sexual **expression**—all that sweating, heaving, and getting elbowed! The sexual ideal Uranus often envisions rarely meets up with the primal reality experienced.

There is an urge for thrill-seeking, especially with the opposition, that can have some of us doing crazy things when it comes to powerful but momentary attractions. If we're married, we may seek out other sources of sexual stimulation, and the outlets we choose can be inappropriate and risky. Uranus and Mars together will live for the moment and pay little attention ahead of time to lust's potential fallout. This transit is not conducive to safe sex, whether from a disease or unwanted pregnancy concern. Sex becomes an irresistible energy rush we suddenly get caught up in, with little time to be sensible about things. Everything is unplanned and hurried.

In some cases, detached Uranus can cool down Mars' fever, preventing desire from having its accustomed physical release. Our sexual drive can be frozen by disinterest. A transiting square or quincunx could block normal Mars functioning (maybe we're inwardly afraid to give ourselves permission to freely gratify strong passions). We also might not be willing to share such energies with another if we feel we're being seduced or manipulated. We can get ourselves or someone else all aroused and then

suddenly and inexplicably want to stop the action, which can trigger the anger of our baffled partner. Uranus perhaps will be forever ambivalent about sex, curious about it but also emotionally distant. Sky god Uranus doesn't understand sexual heat. We'll need to honestly self-review any conflictive feelings first before working up someone's passions unnecessarily.

QUICK MOVES

With sex and violence out of the way, what else is left for Mars? There is a school of thought that suggests Mars may be a key to our identity in action (meaning Mars is something more than just agitated hormones in flux). Due to its Aries connection, Mars can offer clues about how we develop a very personalized concept of ourselves. Mars isn't going to actually analyze or articulate this self-concept as would, say, Mercury; instead, its level of identity can be revealed through the things we do and our general style of **action**—**how** we directly move out into new experiences. Uranus transiting Mars could denote a "coming out" party, especially for us more reserved types, whereby we get to really feel our vitality and our zest for **living—on** our own terms for once. A surge of independence can hit us, and we suddenly may want to do as much for ourselves as we can without outside support or interference.

The nature of the aspect will indicate the probability of whether we experience true self-reliance or are simply being **wayward**. The square and the opposition are a warning for us not to become too headstrong, or we might clash with all sorts of authoritative types who certainly will try to stop us in our tracks (after all, we scare them, and they respond by retaliating with lots of Saturn and maybe even a few sneak Plutonian tactics if they're *really* terrified).

Our Mars expression during this transit can take on a hard edge that may grate on some people. We can seem brusque, abrasive, and very impatient (not every single day, but more so during our sudden flare-ups of Uranian energy). Let's count to ten before jumping all over those we find "slow and stupid." Someone's lack of speed is a Mars gripe; someone's lack of brains is Uranus' pet

peeve. Again, we need to act in reasonable ways, making intelligent moves involving acceptable risks (that's really how Uranus would like it). All in all, this can be one heck of a rip-snorthing transit, capable of livening up the joint if we just play by a few simple social rides and show some consideration for others.

We're not going to always have things turn out our way at this time, no matter how dynamically we thrust ourselves out there into the world and do our “**mover-and-shaker**” routine. There will probably be a few surprise turns and twists awaiting us. Yet that's how life on the planet is sometimes. That's also how Uranus teaches us not to ever get too settled or secure with anything belonging to the physical dimension. We're only here temporarily. Time is short, too short to not be doing what we can for ourselves rather than leaning on the wrong people. Uranus puts things into keener focus for us; we quickly realize it's okay to be completely self-directed during this time in our lives. We simply need to temper our impulsiveness with a measure of common sense. Quick moves are not always smart moves.

THE DIRECT APPROACH

What Uranus transiting Mars shares in common with its transit over our Ascendant is the push to take direct action for ourselves. We have to turn something on inside that awakens greater independence, calling for us to act alone for a while, and even to be alone. Such a period of freer **self-relating** can be insightful. Whatever the aspect in question, forthright (but not foolhardy) expression is to be encouraged. We're to move out into fresh experience with the determination that it will open exciting doors of opportunity for us. However, with the square, quincunx, or opposition, we might be inclined to bulldoze our way through situations, but soon find out that this "technique" doesn't work well. It even makes matters worse, triggering the surprised outrage of others and getting us caught up in weird situations that heat up too fast. We might automatically blame someone else, but we also need to share a degree of responsibility for any crazy outcomes that occur.

With the trine, sextile, or a well-managed conjunction, this Uranus transit can have an effervescent quality that helps us feel alive and well, and alert to our surroundings. Obstacles are not our concern because life seems to be giving us the green light. We don't have much reason to be overly cautious or to wait for anything we want for too long. Of course, this is not the only transit going on at this time in our chart, and thus its expression will be modified by other concurrent patterns (for example, transiting Saturn square our Mercury could certainly make us think twice and analyze matters before taking action). In general, we will be eager to put plans into decisive action when the time is right. Often, the moves we make have far-ranging benefits that we may not recognize at the moment. Uranus will surprise us later with advantageous outcomes as long as we're productive with our energies now.

WORKING FAST

Mars is more of a key to the nature of the work we do than we realize. Work is not just a matter of Virgo, the earthy side of Mercury, the Sixth House, Saturn, and the Tenth House. Work involves a focused release of energy for specific purposes, plus the intention of completing tasks. We should see if our natal Mars sign describes the nature of some of the work we do daily. It often will. Mars energy motivates us to tackle all jobs or chores at hand. Take Mars out of our charts and we won't even have the strength to get out of bed, much less wax the floor! Uranus transiting our Mars suggests we'll require a lot more stimulation from our job than usual. We won't endure a straight work load without several breaks in between. Some jobs simply can't deliver the goods, perhaps because they're too sedentary or routine. Maybe we should have stayed in bed after all, rather than waste this Uranian energy on such mind-numbing labors.

If we're professional race car drivers or have live "wild cat" stage-acts in Vegas, we're already getting more of an adrenaline rush than anyone should need. However, many of us have day jobs that cannot provide the exciting challenges we seem to want.

Are we now finding ourselves doing a lot of that nervous foot-shaking at our desks? That's often a giveaway that Uranian energy is looking for a quick and ready outlet. Are we itching for a few interesting distractions? Again, Uranus is looking for something different to do. There needs to be another area of our life where we can let loose and tackle things that highly interest us. It's best if we feel challenged mentally by our activities at this time; then we won't be as tempted to challenge others and get into crazy fights.

Due to our accelerated drive and eagerness to move forward with our objectives, we can get a lot done quickly by taking advantage of short spurts of intense but highly focused energy. Uranus is not good for anything requiring sustained efforts over long periods of time (that's Saturn or Pluto). It will demand that we take periodic breaks to avoid nervous exhaustion. However, we'll soon need to get back to our tasks to keep the momentum going, because once it's lost, it seldom returns (Uranus abandons people and things once indifference takes over). Our excitement and enthusiasm keep both planets happy and well-motivated.

FINAL ADVICE

In general, this transit pinpoints a high-energy period that can make us feel vitally involved in the here and now. We have an opportunity to show gumption and to come up with inventive ways to make our mark. Our actions can be outstanding in some manner, even trendsetting in some cases. What we need to keep in mind is that this is a time when we can be more vibrantly charged up than **ever—emphatically** so with the conjunction, square, or opposition. Uranus/Mars aspects have a reputation for being as volatile and explosive as dynamite. Much of the turbulence generated is usually a result of not finding suitable outlets to handle this transit's sudden swells of energy. It is imperative that we take action during this phase, but very *conscious* action as we consider the pros and cons, and then move forward with self-assurance.

URANUS TRANSITING THE SECOND HOUSE

MATERIAL WHIRL

Uranus transiting **our** Second House might initially worry some of us who don't like the thought of *any* potential trouble-maker entering this private sector of our **chart**—**especially** if we have safety-conscious Taurus, Cancer, Scorpio, or Capricorn on the cusp. After all, this is the house where we store and enjoy our valuable goods and where we count and spend our hard-earned cash; we expect nothing less here than total, everlasting security. It's easy, living in a materialistic culture, to believe that secured acquisitions will be of greater worth to us than personal happiness (a more abstract, hard-to-define inner state). Should happiness be a part of pure Second House fulfillment, it's mostly the result of that which we tangibly own; happiness is thus something that comes with a price tag attached to it. Knowing this, Uranus is eager to punch a few holes in such a limited worldly outlook.

One thing we might worry about is Uranus' reputation for restlessness and changeability as it enters this house. Uranus doesn't want to keep things as they are and as they've always been; it likes to tinker and experiment, which just ends up destabilizing everything the Second House wishes to keep intact. It's

hard to feel grounded when all that we own is in a constant state of flux; the Second likes things to stay nailed down to the floor, as does the sign also associated with Principle Two—Taurus. Therefore, this transit may not be welcomed at first. It certainly won't be easily understood by those who have a tight grip on their possessions (often sore-loser types). Many of us are already too jittery about our financial futures in today's complex economy. Do we really need Uranus to add to our overall uncertainty? Can we endure periodic shake-ups here? And, of course, how much will this cost us in the end?

THE POSSESSED

It's true that Uranus and material stability do not mix well (after all, it's a planet associated with earthquakes and sudden turnabouts of fortune). That doesn't mean they never can work together; however, it will take a major adjustment on our part concerning how we view our value structure. We are dealing with a sky god of the rarefied ethers, not an earth deity of the plowed and fertile fields. For starters, Uranus doesn't seem to understand this preoccupation with ownership we earthlings get so worked up about. Mythological Uranus didn't even want to own his freaky kids and made sure they didn't get to hang around! Owning things seems all so energy-trapping to this planet; having a lot of material objects may weigh us down too much, keeping us unsatisfyingly earthbound. Then we're not free to move about as we please, knowing we have all these physical *things* to maintain.

Perhaps Uranus would concede that owning exciting high-tech toys, for example, may be great fun for a while. They could be awesome to have for the moment. But why own anything or attempt to own *anybody* for a lifetime? Why risk being possessed by such possessions? Also, how can we make room for brand new, ingenious contraptions if we first are not willing to part with old stuff collecting dust and slowly devouring our surrounding space? Uranus is no junk collector or pack rat with closets crammed full of little-used items. The Moon's guilty of that. If we are especially

lunar in our attitudes about what we own, we give transiting Uranus a darn good reason to break up our attachment-fixation in the Second.

HOLDING ON

We may rationalize our urge to accumulate by saying that what some call clutter, we view as our "cherished collectibles," things that have great emotional value for us. We need such items around to feel good about our link to the past. It may not be coincidental that a few of these things also have great resale value, such as rare antiques handed down for generations. "Cherished collectibles? Aha, maybe so," responds quick-thinking Uranus, "but why don't you take that same emotional energy and apply it toward *new* objects of desire? They, in turn, will become items that you'll also feel you cannot bear to part with, unless the price is right! It's your sentimentalism you're hanging on to more than anything else." We're not sure if we like the sound of this kind of blunt reasoning, but that's **Uranus—always** opting for an unusual viewpoint directly stated.

Uranus, although not sensitive to the emotional tie people have to their possessions, may still be pointing out a truth about this "holding on tight to what we value" phenomenon that many folks seem destined to experience. Is it truly the possession we must have or is it the sense of intimate attachment our possession triggers that is actually what we wish to cling to? There is something seductive about owning things from our past and where they take us in our heads. After all, memories can also become cherished collectibles; we can even image ourselves "storing" our recollections in our memory "bank" for safe-keeping.

LETTING IT GO

In our Second House, some of us can develop the attitude that certain attachments are never to leave us. We always want them close by and ready to be used in case we need them in the future. That's

why we have attics, basements, and closets. It's hard to throw out or part with long-owned Second House things. For example, most people with self-possessed Taurus Rising have Gemini on the Second House cusp. If this non-possessive air sign is going to be acquisitive, it will be in the area of our mental world. Gemini placed here is learning to possess **ideas**—**one's** own and those of **others**—**especially** ideas presented in tangible form. Book collecting, study tapes, articles, newspaper clippings, and interesting tidbits from magazines are what we tend to accumulate.

Gemini is nosy enough to love getting e-mail or junk mail, but it hates being weighed down by heavier baggage. Paperwork of all sorts could pile up and needlessly eat up space. The trick is to choose what we wish to possess **intelligently**—**thus** satisfying the Gemini principle. Otherwise, Taurus Rising has a steady appetite for having more than it **needs**—**some** of that being nonessential information collected, making our Second House environment too congested for Gemini to properly function. Ventilation is important for this air sign; therefore, the less we stockpile the better. See if you could readily do without various items or concepts represented by the sign on your Second House cusp. With transiting Uranus passing through here, we may have to let go of some possessions without much notice or time to emotionally prepare ourselves. They can suddenly be yanked away from us.

There are people with this transit who perhaps have had to endure the horror and pain of losing an entire house and all their belongings to a hurricane, tornado, or raging wildfire (maybe even the IRS took a big chunk out of their material world). Some freak incident might have entered their lives and turned everything upside-down. The trauma triggering such shockingly quick and sometimes total loss must have been great. It is doubtful that they would have been in any mood at the time to listen to Uranus' little speech about the "here today, gone tomorrow" transient nature of all physical things. Uranus probably detaches from such loss so easily because it has never allowed itself to become emotionally bonded to anything or anyone. Yet we sense, on a gut level, that we have a lot to lose with such a planet so fundamentally disinterested in attachments and material outcomes.

Most of us will not experience a natural disaster that **destroys** all that we own in one fell swoop. Nevertheless, this transit will force us to rethink any future plans about amassing too much in life. Uranus pushes for material detachment, which doesn't mean we can't continue to play the happy consumer, and reward or indulge **ourselves—it** just suggests we are not to get so immersed that we'd fall apart at the seams should everything come to a screeching halt due to devastating events beyond our control. Maybe we could cooperate with Uranus by having a few yard sales or allowing for spontaneous giveaways, ridding ourselves of excess material build-up; then it's best to take a break from buying new items altogether for a while.

SURPRISING SKILLS

When it comes to money-making (a strong Second House pursuit), Uranus during the next several years will have some new and hopefully exciting plans for us. We'll need that much time to be convinced that we can derive a livable income by going down different roads of opportunity. Because our survival requirements must adequately be met in the Second House at all times, we feel we cannot afford to play crazy Uranian mind-games **here—like** simply quitting our job and taking a few months off to decide who we really are and what we really want to do in our career. Who can afford to take that route in today's high-pressured world? Uranus is nonetheless ready to surprise us with the emergence of personal resources and skills we may not have effectively tapped. It's time to get a little gutsy about unearthing and using **our** lesser-known talents.

Upon awakening our intuition, Uranus reveals that valuing personal freedom with a real sense of conviction can allow us to earn a living in such a way that we don't feel enslaved to tedious jobs. We don't have to be pawns in the hands of an impersonal business industry that could downsize us in a heartbeat. This still could be a hard-sell for many of us who feel pulled in two opposite directions ("stick to what you know" versus "try anything new just to get out of this rut"). Eventually, we will need to do some

degree of risk-taking to test the "ethers" and prove to ourselves that *mind over matter* can help us succeed.

FUTURE SECURITY

It is important that we recognize and follow our hunches during this transit (they can act as our career guidance counselor). It also helps to have the guts and determination (Uranian values) to explore those areas in business that excite us, that make us think about the world's future, and that even make work seem like stimulating fun. Uranus could mean obtaining that dream job we always thought we'd never be lucky enough to land. Another option (and a strong one) is self-employment. Uranus is anti-boss; it defies supervision by those in authority. This transit alone is not enough to suggest that we have what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur, because that involves more than just having an independent spirit and a strong will. We'll need to find out first-hand, perhaps in small ways, if we have the working skills required. Often, Uranus means we take on several small jobs to eke out a living, something that can help fulfill our need for variety and change.

By exploring and delving into our feelings about the sense of safety our attachments provide, we'll get to examine what security really means to us—especially during those times when things feel shaky and our direction uncertain. Little should be taken for granted when it comes to material support. We'll have to be alert to any sudden opportunity to prosper. However, it is important that we shoot for high-minded goals. Hopefully, we'll eventually become less uptight about money and about paying our bills. By following Uranus' unusual game plan, we will marvel at how our financial affairs fall into place unexpectedly (money comes from the least expected sources). If we are truly stuck in a rut, we are free to drop whatever's not paying off for us and switch gears in midstream, if need be. We have more options available than we typically realize.

AWAKENING OUR SENSES

There is a sensual side to the Second House that's usually downplayed in astrological texts in favor of material and financial survival needs. When do we get to slow down and smell the flowers or count the puffy white clouds above? When do we get to enrich our fives by taking time for the quiet joys of Nature's bounty? Attracting the comforts of the physical world in their most basic form is symbolized by the Second House. Uranus, although not deeply interested in physical gratification, could now awaken our appreciation of beauty in natural form. Suddenly, we may find that we want a lot of simple but lovely things around **us—not** just expensive, status-enhancing objects possessed solely to create a social impression. Actually, Uranus is interested in beauty's powerful ability to arouse inner states of exhilaration and astonishment. This would be a great time to witness, first-hand, an aurora borealis or a blazing comet sweeping across the nighttime sky. Nature can be very exciting, and this is a time to explore that fact!

One easy way to evoke the sense-gratifying element of the Second House is to tend a little garden or put a few terra cotta pots out on the patio. Grow flowers. Plant rose bushes or even miniature ornamental trees (the fruit-bearing variety). Bonsai arrangements might work because they're so unusual, although they're really too slow-growing to keep Uranus' interest (it's not a very patient planet). Maybe gardening sounds more fitting for earth Venus' needs than for Uranus'. Yet if we pick the most uncommon varieties of flowers, bushes, and trees to grow, Uranus will be satisfied. Regular old earth Venus would gravitate toward petunias and gardenias, the hardy, and the fragrant; but Uranus is more curious about Venus fly-traps and strangely shaped cacti, or plants that bloom only at **night—anything** that's different. The more exotic our plants, the more we please a sky god who relishes nature's less-popular oddities. Forget those pretty but predictable pansies; think about cultivating a giant Golden Amazon Nightcatcher!

SPENDING SPREE

When it comes to spending habits, Uranus is ready for us to try something different. Spending freely, without guilt, might be our challenge during this period. Being a tightwad or a cheapskate is not supported by Uranus. Letting go of insecurity and experimenting with sensible risks is the new trend. However, financial foolhardiness will never be condoned, because that could put us in serious debt, leaving us anything *but* free. Impulse buying can become stronger; we unexpectedly see what we like **and—zap!**—it's ours. Obviously, we'll need to avoid using credit cards too much for such quickie purchases, because that can invite chaos into our lives at some later point when we've become more manic with our shopping urges than we can afford.

During these years, we could also sporadically give money and other assets to groups that will fight for social causes we strongly support. Such special-interest groups have underdog status in our eyes; therefore, they become something Uranus values defending. Protecting the natural environment and the rights of wildlife (Mother Earth) would be things we could financially support. Apparently, we can part with our cash when we're angry enough to demand progressive or humane reform. This would suggest that our value system is undergoing a revolution based on altruism, social activism, and new perceptions of what we deem to be right and true. Money and social consciousness are now tied together for us like never before.

If we're having a transiting Uranus square or opposition, we may be too impulsive in our monetary support of "worthy causes" and much too impractical to satisfy Second House dynamics. Life quickly brings this to our attention by having our dishwasher break down shortly after we send off a **check—for** more bucks than we should have **donated—to** the "Save the Beavers" foundation. With Uranus involved, the foundation itself might be in a state of financial upheaval and could fold at any minute, unbeknownst to us. It's wise to do a little research before funding anybody's passionate crusade.

URANUS EARTH/VENUS TRANSITS

NOTHING PERMANENT

Uranus transiting our natal Venus can take two different routes of expression, depending on whether we're dealing with this planet's earthy side (Taurus) or its airy facet (Libra). Let's look at the earthy factor first, and then get back to the airy element later, when we cover Uranus going through our Seventh House.

We know that Venus symbolizes things we like and admire, things that give us pleasure and comfort. This is the earthy, "feel-good" side of Venus that seeks solid, tangible satisfaction. Earth Venus means money, possessions, pleasant body sensations, things that are beautiful, or anything that appeals to our senses. It's Venus' need to express itself through the fulfillment of our physical appetites. Uranus by nature doesn't like to become too submerged in this for fear of being sucked in and trapped by the gravitational pull of earthbound desire. Solely from a material perspective, ensuring any sense of long-term security is not the main thrust of this transit. An early indicator of this might be that things we've owned for a long while start breaking down on us. They unexpectedly stop functioning. They could suffer sudden damage or whatever else it takes to get our attention. Life is now teaching us that nothing is meant to last forever.

The more fixed and/or earthy we are by temperament, the more likely we will periodically suffer such sudden losses. We feel we are being forced to let things go (sounds like Pluto, except Uranus operates so darn fast that, at first, we probably are stunned by any loss rather than bitterly angry). Our material structure is ready to undergo a few progressive changes, and it's best if we don't get into such a tizzy about losing anything we currently own (easy to say, harder to do). Stability as we have known it is not promised by this transit. Our emotions, if heavily invested in what we own, will be subject to many ups and downs. A shake-up of our worldly values may be the best way to awaken an awareness of the power that our attachments may have over us. Of course, how this affects us psychologically depends on the

nature of the aspect. A conjunction, sextile, or trine allows us to see Uranus as stimulating and even as a source of excitement.

QUICKIE SPLURGE

Maybe we're ready for a few, significant purchases, while some older, little-used items are ready to be tossed out or given away. Perhaps we buy a super-duper computer for the first time with all of the bells and whistles. That alone is a thrill. In addition, computer literacy becomes a new asset we learn to value and maybe later capitalize **on—a** thought that appeals to profit-minded earth Venus. It's the square, quincunx, or opposition that can make Uranus energy such a pain in the neck at first, because our carefully organized plans often take quick detours or sometimes even unforeseen nose-dives. Earth Venus represents fixed wants and desires that do not appreciate life's complicating disruptions. It psychologically equates steadiness with well-being.

However, even reversals of fortune are not always as bad as they feel at the **time—especially** if we've been living too long in the foggy land of Neptune, wasting or mismanaging our resources left and right. Uranus is no Saturn, a planet that really likes to tighten the budget, but still it hates to see us get dumb and dumber about **things—even** our finances. It could be that this transit will teach us how to make a few smart financial moves (intuitive investments) that open doors of future opportunity. It will be impossible to predict how we might use money during this period, except to say erratically so, and based on our hunches at times. Uranus is susceptible to splurges, but less so to extravagant or needless ones (that's Jupiter). It's just that many of those state-of-the-art, high-tech Uranian toys that catch our eye usually cost a lot.

SUDDEN WEALTH?

This transit could make us a prime candidate for financial surprises of an extraordinary **nature—like** windfalls, money dropped in our laps, seemingly from out of the blue. However, we won't

benefit as much when we try to force the urge to win big bucks (like going to Las Vegas with a determination to leave that town wealthy). Uranus demands a degree of surprise, so the less we plot and scheme, the better. Even if we did win top prize in a major lottery or a national sweepstakes, instant-millionaire status would probably become a very unsettling Uranian experience. We'd naively anticipate it to be tremendous Jupiter abundance ("Thank you, Jesus!"), but the reality could throw some of us into an unanticipated and premature life crisis: Do I keep my job or not, my lover/spouse or not, even my current physical features or not? Should I relocate to get away from jealous neighbors or money-mooching relatives? What should I do about tax strategies and future investments? What about protecting myself from "the bad guys" (scam artists and such) who illegally want a chunk of my loot, or even from the well-meaning but endless stream of charity groups begging for donations?

Our life suddenly can be turned upside-down. We surely weren't expecting this. Be careful about wanting a quick ticket to "the finer things in life" when Uranus is calling the shots. It rarely means we can keep on living the way we've always known, making only minimal changes. Money comes into our life mainly to shatter old structures. Some of us may find, ironically, that we are less willing to share what we own as much as we did before. We can display a strong independent streak regarding our finances by wanting things to go our way without the interference or supervision of others. We won't tolerate anybody telling us how to manage our wealth (and at this time, cautious Saturnians seem to come out of the woodwork to give us their sage advice, which we are prone to flat-out resist).

BREAKING HABITS

It is likely that we will at least have a chance to appreciate new things about day-to-day living during this transit. Although much depends on the natal condition of our Venus, in general we will tend to loosen up regarding our likes and dislikes. Maybe we are learning to value tolerance and to accept things that do not fit

standard norms. We even might experiment with modifying our routines, habits, or whatever it takes to break the monotony. This could be very self-educational. Another value we adopt is respect for impermanence. Flux and change are the way this world runs, even if we are temporarily lulled into long stretches of stability. Because earth Venus can have a problem with passivity, we often get stuck in our safe but dull daily patterns. Uranus abhors inertia, however, and can quickly intuit the difference between true stability and stagnation.

If it senses that we are just vegetating in our overgrown fields of non-development, Uranus will go right to work by zapping us in those personal areas that most need to be recharged. We may require a good shaking to wake us up to our unused creative potential. Earth Venus represents latent talents that need our attention and a little prodding. Maybe we are budding artists or musicians and don't realize it. Then something happens, often by chance, to awaken our talents. It might excite us to realize that skills discovered now can materially pay off later, depending on how we market them. They at least offer us much self-satisfaction. However, for talent to go anywhere requires self-discipline and hard work, which are in short supply during this transit. Uranus only introduces us to potential we didn't know we had; it will take a good Saturn transit or two to give us the staying power to further develop any potential and make something lasting of it. At least our eyes are open wider so that we see what our future could promise once greater effort is made.

BRAND NEW STYLE

We can also get this transit rolling by upgrading our surroundings and purchasing a few, innovative items, usually electronic or digital. That could be something as simple but odd as a programmable doorbell or a dishwasher with its own remote control (anything to make the mundane chores of living easier). How we decorate can be shown by Venus in both its earth and air facets. Uranus is ready for new colors and patterns. Is there a room at home to which we've been longing to do something different? This

could be the time to play with fresh concepts, although it's best not to get too *avant-garde* (something we could regret later when this transit is over).

A few colorful decorative touches and an interesting new arrangement of **furniture**—**maybe** moving a bed or sofa from one side of the room to the other, and placing it at a different **angle**—is enough to make everything look suddenly different. This is how we can evoke Uranus. Earth Venus' first instinct is to prompt us move things back the way we first had them, because it doesn't respond well to unfamiliarity. However, to consciously choose to go with Uranus means keeping that bed, sofa, or whatever in its new spot for at least a week or so. *Then* we can evaluate the benefit of such a change. By that time, we might find out we really like it (because by then we've gotten used to things). The same could go for a new hair style, new clothes, or other changes. Our initial resistance, serving to support only inertia and inflexibility, needs to be challenged. It also helps to know that any changes made do not have to be permanent (and probably won't be).

A few of us, however, won't need much prompting when it comes to bringing Uranus into the picture. What if we are born with Venus in easily bored Gemini, a Venus that is now squared by restless Uranus? We still might need a little balance when determining how to go about ushering in the new and the different. Uranus has a wacky sense of experimentation that can upset earthy Venus' simpler, unaffected style and taste. We may go overboard with adornment (using too much of something that doesn't really coordinate with something else). We may blend things that look weird or jarring (stripes and plaids). While *we* think our look is highly original, others may find it simply tacky and ill-conceived.

Too much **Uranus**—**like** the fire **element**—**means** we can be reckless with our spending, and unwisely impulsive when buying things. Such sudden urges can be expensive, and our satisfaction with certain newly-owned goods might be fleeting. Venus alone offers us patience and the ability to wait to attract desired items at the right cost, meaning at irresistibly marked-down prices. This practical Venus does a little comparative window shopping and

wants to feel the material before buying. Its ability to assess the value or worthiness of anything is excellent (although the actual sign Venus is in modifies this planet's traits; fire signs, for example, don't do their homework and usually end up paying more).

Earthy Venus likes to savor things slowly; things become more attractive after time has passed. However, a mismanaged Uranus doesn't bond well on the feeling level; therefore, we may purchase something unexpectedly, use it intensely for a short time, and then put it in our closet or in a little-used drawer as the victim of underuse. During this transit, we'll have to be careful not to thoughtlessly give in to faddish or gimmicky **items—such** as a lot of those things we see advertised on late night TV that "are not sold in stores anywhere." Then again, maybe a few of us really would love a fabulous set of Gonza **knives—guaranteed** to be strong enough to even cut through bureaucratic red tape!

No GUARANTEES

We may even wish to use our savings in different ways ("creative investing"), although we'll need to keep in mind that Uranus doesn't much care if we lose money as long as we've allowed ourselves to try out different financial strategies. Venus, however, won't feel safe with investments that cannot guarantee security ahead of time; no wonder it rules a house that squares the risk-taking Fifth and Uranus' own, the Eleventh. If we are the sore-loser type, we'll have to approach any investment potential very gingerly. Better not experiment with money until we know that we are detached enough to not get too broken up about any unanticipated losses should things go awry. Once we truly can adopt a "take it or leave it" attitude, Uranus may then turn around and surprise us, making us big winners! We have to be caught at least somewhat off guard if an experience is to qualify as Uranian.

TIME TO UPGRADE

Transiting Uranus evoking the earthy side of Venus suggests that whatever we choose to do, we'll want the outcome to be pleasing or comforting (satisfying our natal Venus requirements). We are not to feel deprived or left wanting when this transit is completed. This facet of Venus is associated with self-appreciation issues (as is our Second House). The results of our responses and actions during this period can enhance our personal value and upgrade our sense of self-worth. Yet all of this will have to come about by consciously inviting more Uranus manifestation into our lives. How do we do that? First, we establish that change itself can be very gratifying when it releases us from having things around us that we're outgrown (including antagonistic people who continuously dump on us). Being surrounded by whatever is stale or static can feel suffocating. We need an invigorating stimulation of the **senses—because** we're worth it!

URANUS TRANSITING THE THIRD HOUSE

MINDBURST

Uranus transiting our Third House can be an excellent time to awaken our mind to the ever-exciting possibilities of expanded consciousness. This is not a period to get lazy with our brainpower or underestimate our intelligence. Cerebral-intuitive Uranus likes to live in its head; here, it can create amazing new concepts at will without being slowed down by the conventions of a limited, external world. On our more abstract levels of thought, we have the freedom to explore what we want without **self**-restriction and without censorship (although Uranus can sound like a heretic who willfully rocks the boat of conformity).

The Third House is where we toss about a variety of stimulating ideas that keep our minds well tuned and open to smarter ways to communicate. Variety and adaptability are the keys to our success here. Both the Third House and Uranus support brightness, quickness, lively expressiveness, and the speedy transportation of data. The Third House, however, mostly describes standard methods of education (books, classes, lectures, online forums and newsgroups, or even just asking smart or nosy

questions). In contrast, Uranus doesn't depend on outside "authoritative" sources for answers; it comes up with its own startling revelations or else invents previously unheard-of theories on the spot!

We may currently feel mentally bored with the usual information that we use in our day-to-day dealings. We need an intellectual boost, especially if stuck in rut-bound thinking patterns. With Uranus, this boost involves being introduced to fresh and sometimes provocative data. This is not always a conscious quest. Nonetheless, we may stumble on eye-opening information that makes us sit up and think twice about our former assumptions. Not all people are interested in feeding their minds challenging or controversial material, so one option is to channel this planet into heightened physical movement. This could mean a restless phase in life when sporadic travel is accented (usually local trips rather than international tours, unless perhaps we already have natal Jupiter in our Third and/or Sagittarius on the cusp). Our short-term adventures usually don't take us too far away from our familiar environment. We're more apt to meet up against real Uranian culture shock in our Ninth House.

MY MAZDA, MYSELF

We may be more on the go than usual, so one understandable mundane manifestation of this transit would be to buy a new car. It's usually one purchased under pressure because of the unexpected malfunction of the vehicle we already own—that old workhorse we expected to run forever, the one we claimed thrived on neglect! We may stubbornly try to hang onto our clunker even though it's now undergoing a series of unrelated but exasperating Uranian symptoms, all requiring sudden repairs and stunningly high bills. We'll have to weigh all sides and determine if it might be wiser to unload this high-maintenance nuisance and choose something more **reliable**—this time, something with a great sound system.

Sometimes we have little choice: our car was stolen, or vandalized, or perhaps totaled in a weird accident (and we weren't

even inside it at the time, thank goodness). Remember, Uranus symbolizes life's more confounding matters. Strange things just happen as fate intervenes to force a decision on us. A clue that Uranus is active and feeling mischievous would be when odd little symptoms pop up involving the electrical system of the car, most commonly the battery. We could be more absent-minded than usual and accidentally leave the headlights on, the keys in the ignition, or the door unlocked while we're off shopping. We'll need to pay extra attention to the details of what's happening in the now rather than let our mind distract us by impulsively jumping into the future.

It may seem superficial at first to be talking about mere car problems for a transpersonal planet like Uranus, especially to those who see deeper esoteric meaning in all Outer Planet activity. Yet for me, one of the more fascinating correlations astrology makes is that of the mind/car connection. Our Third House thinking patterns directly tie in with not only our driving habits but also our experiences with traffic. I can't help but wonder if the person who drives around with dents and scrapes has an angry Mars in the Third to work out; what about a Third House Neptune for someone whose car displays the message "License plate has been stolen. Applied for new one." Could transiting Pluto be involved in the chart of a victim of a terrifying **carjacking**?

The health of our car and the way we drive can be a tip-off regarding our general or current state of mind. Uranus suggests off-and-on-again symptoms, paralleling our erratic mental patterns at this time. Our inner nervous tension can be discharged in dramatically quick and surprising ways, then projected onto our auto or any other daily means of transportation.

STRANGE NEIGHBORS?

Neighbors will sometimes show us how Uranian energy works. Here we have a variety of possibilities available for transiting Uranus to freely express itself, assuming that our nearest neighbor is no more than a few miles away and that we're not total recluses. We'll need to consider especially the folks right next door

or just down the block from us in a Third House context. Uranus, often when aspecting our natal Mercury, Venus, or the Moon, could indicate some disruptive or exciting changes are going on with these people. Maybe some folks are suddenly moving away or are noisily renovating their house. Maybe they've undergone an unexpected upset recently. Perhaps a neighbor is just being a pain because of his eccentric behavior or her inability to follow standard rules of neighborly conduct. Uranus symbolizes oddballs who don't fit into the social system **well—nor** do they care to. There might at least be one of these on the block or in the apartment/condo complex acting in ways that we find annoying. These manifestations alert us to possible disruptions also going on inside our head, those rebellious mental qualities generating similar friction and heat. Sometimes a neighbor's behavior gives us a chance to play the detached witness and observe a few Uranian principles in action.

Even sections of the neighborhood could undergo physical changes that some would deem to be progressive (road construction, housing developments, a new fire station or post office built, and so on). Our aspects at the time might better determine whether we will interpret such changes as true improvements or just unwelcome aggravations; they probably are both. Things will be disruptive and chaotic for a while, and we may be forced to take different routes (Uranus) to get around. The Third House deals with nearby localities; therefore, if we are dedicated **home-**bodies, even hermits, we may not even be aware of the extensive alterations going on around us. We need to cruise around and see for ourselves what Uranus has stirred up several blocks away. The Third House tries to arouse our curiosity about the social scene around us; Uranus provides a few interesting people and things that capture our attention.

SIBLING SURPRISE

Of course, siblings are another Third House issue. Uranus can mean a brother or sister either in a rebellious stage in life or at a

revved up phase of self-discovery (maybe both). Perhaps siblings are undergoing a major upheaval, bringing chaos and unexpected opportunity into their lives. The potential for bust-ups, **break-throughs**, and abrupt departures can be strong. This is a non-issue for those of us who are without brothers and sisters, unless Uranus means we're feeling agitated about our lonely "single child" status. Of course, maybe due to a parent remarrying, we could suddenly end up with step-siblings that we'll have to get used to. Uranus here presents us with an unusual set-up that requires flexibility and tolerance. However, our transition might not be smooth at first due to someone's lack of cooperative spirit. Then again, depending on the aspects made, we could become instant friends at first **sight**—an unexpectedly quick bonding.

If Uranus forms stress aspects to our natal planets, those of us with siblings can be at odds in our relationship with at least one of them. It's not a great time to engage in a battle of the wills or threaten one another with ultimatums and other strong-arm control tactics. Big blow-up scenes can result, as well as baffling falling-outs (baffling to other relatives, at least). Under difficult conditions, Uranus can symbolize alienation and estrangement. Keeping our distance may seem like the best policy at this time. However, Uranus can also **suggest**—**under** trying **conditions**—sudden reconciliations with a brother or sister we have avoided honestly relating to for a long time. We may warm up to one another quickly once the initial ice has been broken and **our** main problems have been aired. Under easier Uranian patterns, we could share something exciting with a sibling. Maybe we are thrilled for them as they embark on a more promising future. We may enjoy open and spirited communication with them as we seldom have before.

Anything goes with Uranus, so it's futile to try to pinpoint exactly what will **"happen"** regarding our brothers and **sisters**—maybe it's absolutely nothing out of the **ordinary**—**because** Uranus could be working on other, more pressing Third House themes for us. Many of my clients with this transit seem detached from the affairs of their siblings, not really knowing what to say about them

sometimes. It could be that a sibling's circumstances might prove to be a big surprise (or shock) to those clients later, when the cat's finally out of the bag! Situations could change overnight, and suddenly we might become involved in their urgent affairs. Wouldn't it be great if all this transit means is that we find out a brother or sister has developed a sudden passion for learning astrology and wants to have stimulating conversations with us about chart interpretation? Just don't be too quick to lend out your favorite book on the subject; that book may not come back in the best shape, *if it* comes back at all. Uranus deals with life's "oops!" factor; therefore, unfortunate mishaps can occur when we impulsively lend our Third House items, including our cars.

SHOCK PROOF

Uranus going through the Third is typically a time for a major overhaul of our thinking process. We are to learn to trust the intuitional development of our mind, which does not mean foregoing logic and reason. Intuition may reach the same conclusions as does logic, yet it does so faster and with greater excitement. Also, after several years of undergoing this transit, we may find ourselves more open-minded, tolerant, liberal, and almost unshockable. I suspect life will especially test us regarding that last quality to see if we can remain unflappable and non-judgmental in the face of strange events.

A healthy detachment can develop, preventing us from being as touchy, defensive, or as easily offended as we may have been before this transit. We will now seldom take anything said as personally as we once did, if we ever did (especially if we have a water sign on the cusp or a water planet in our Third). We can be amazed at how people's statements just bounce off of us, whereas in the past they would have disturbed us for days on end. This could be a great transit to experience in old age; our mind will surely not dry up with boredom and non-stimulation; and we certainly will make sure that we *don't* just settle down and act our age!

ELECTRIC BRAIN

We also have opportunities to undertake studies that can blast away our former assumptions about life and about ourselves. Our need for intellectual arousal is typically heightened. Often, we unexpectedly bump into new information that can strongly alter our **thinking—at** times, radically so. However, it is important not to become too wired up about any new theoretical data or study. We'll need to slow down and learn to digest things at a reasonable pace (which still can seem rapid, because Uranus by nature is no slow poke). We'll also have to ask ourselves if we can apply our new insights in workable ways. Is this information relevant to our needs in the real world?

Sometimes we may have a sudden urge to go back to school (even if not formally). We will find a way to continue our education, even if what we wish to learn is deemed unconventional or futuristic. Maybe taking classes in specialized subjects is suddenly required of us (usually for the sake of career advancement). Although everything can feel very uncertain at this time, learning a new body of knowledge is a step in the right direction. Doing absolutely nothing with our brain power can leave us feeling uncomfortably up in the air and even **cranky—Uranus** can entertain some pretty bizarre thoughts when it's cranky. When we don't allow ourselves suitable channels for experimentation, irritability increases, our nerves can act up, and our sleep patterns become disruptively altered.

All in all, this can be a great time to enjoy being a free thinker, less influenced by the opinions of established authority. Of course, we'll have to live with the possibility that nobody may agree with us. We're on our own with ideas that may not get a lot of support from others. Still, we're able to size things up more quickly and invent new ways to problem-solve. It is important that we give ourselves a chance to challenge our minds with concepts that allow us to explore new horizons. We're ready to look at things with much farsighted understanding. If we consciously work at it, this could be an excellent time to shatter a few mental hang-ups that have kept us from living an optimal life.

Nonetheless, we should reserve any final conclusions about everything we've learned, unlearned, or relearned until Uranus transits out of this house—long after the excitement factor has peaked. It's very doubtful that we will ever go back to our former boxed-in ways of thinking. Once we've seen more with our mind's eye, we will continue to also want more to explore throughout our life. We're been zapped with a hunger for truth that can lead us to no-nonsense paths of enlightenment. Actually, indulging in a little absurd nonsense at this time is also good for the soul!

URANUS/AIR MERCURY TRANSITS

SPEED OF THOUGHT

Transiting Uranus stimulating the airy side of Mercury can be invigorating for the mind, but sometimes it's too over-energizing for the nervous system. We will need a variety of physical outlets as well to syphon off this energy (even Gemini can't sit still for long without getting fidgety). Much depends on the aspect being made: a square can be unnervingly intense, while a sextile is refreshingly stimulating. We can find ourselves mentally restless, but not in the adventuresome manner typical of Jupiter, because we don't necessarily need to relocate elsewhere geographically in order to feel freer. We can find satisfaction exploring our immediate environment. Thus, wanderlust is usually not an issue (unless Uranus is also passing through our Fourth or our Ninth). We probably are ready for many elements of our private world to change. Yet our inner ideal of a better life-script may conflict with mundane outer realities, and that can create varying degrees of unrest and agitation. The thought of being stuck in certain life patterns can aggravate us, but this could also fortify our will to alter our scenario for the better.

Some of us may become growingly distracted, unable to concentrate on the routine matters of the daily world. Boredom with the ordinary stabilities we've grown accustomed to starts to take over; one initial reaction to this can be irritability (as rebellion

hits the mental level) or even absent-mindedness (our unconscious way of not having to deal with trivial details). Others may note that we are not paying attention to things like we used to; we even appear to be indifferent to certain responsibilities and commitments (less so with the sextile and trine). Our mind acts as if it's far, far away from the here-and-now. Indeed, we may even become suddenly disengaged in those repetitive facets of our life that normally define our stability; we may begin to show an **“off-again, on-again”** interest in such everyday matters, a **take-it-or-leave-it** approach. Perhaps we are getting fed up with these tiresome day-to-day structures and want to bail out from such commitments.

INSIGHT FULL

We may wonder what's wrong with **us—why** the sudden yo-yo attitude and why the contradictory inner dialogues? Why do we have a sense of undefined urgency to overhaul those things that now seem to slow us down? **We'll** need to give ourselves permission to feel a bit flaky for a while, until we've become more adjusted to this transit. We need to catch our breath and get a clearer perspective on what we are trying to realize about ourselves and our developing needs. Such insights will come in spurts, usually as interruptions to our normal train of thought. They can be vivid reminders of how we're only as trapped as our mind allows. Action follows thought, and if we wish to significantly change things, we'll need to open our mind to all future **possibilities—and** then we'll need the guts to act on our hunches.

Uranus encourages Mercury to become less analytical, less logic-bound, and more willing to use intuition and spontaneous association as ways to input data and to learn new things (or to perceive old things in new ways). But don't expect overnight enlightenment. We have long been socially conditioned to place a high value on **Mercury's** way of knowledge-gathering with its sensible, linear approach to the organization of thought. **Mercury—a** natural fist **maker—likes** things in orderly sequence, although Uranus doesn't believe anything has to be so systematic to be

understood, nor should we have to work that hard to get the data we want. Also, the way that Uranus free-associates may not make sense to air Mercury, who wants to be clear and precise about the way two or more things are linked together.

We will still need to do our air Mercury process during this transit, except that Uranus will now and then alert us to smarter short-cuts and cleverly inventive techniques that can really speed things up. Airy Mercury thought it was already fast enough, but apparently not. However, Mercury should appreciate extra speed if it's natively in fire, air, or in cardinal signs (most so Aries, least so Cancer). In earth, water, or fixed signs (except for Aquarius), our Mercury doesn't always enjoy going at such a furious pace. Pent-up inner tension and mistakes can result. There also is something about being on a mental roller coaster ride, turning quick corners at sharp angles, that we probably find jarring!

GOTTA MOVE

Nervous energy is more noticeable during this transit, and we will need a variety of invigorating outlets to use it up effectively. Needlepoint or potting plants may be too sedate and too quiet, something better undertaken during a more tranquil, meditative Neptune/Mercury transit. However, not all avenues of expression have to be intellectual and verbally-oriented. Thrilling and daring physical activity (ski surfing anyone?) normally does the trick. Riding on a bucking bronco, rodeo-style, could do it if we were so inclined (Uranus enjoys jerky movement and doesn't mind the danger element). Whether our mind or our body is in motion, what we need is something challenging and uncommon to preoccupy ourselves. Nonetheless, it's important that we learn to be discriminating in what we choose to do, because we're tempted to take unneeded risks. We could also make up our own rules as we go along, only to find that we get in trouble for not following critical details or paying attention to standard **procedures—whoops!**

Although we may impulsively decide to forego acknowledging certain regulations, especially when dull Saturnians are in charge

of operations, we may not land in the same degree of hot water as we would under a Uranus/Mars transit; that's because air Mercury intrinsically is not the willful, confrontational planet that Mars is. Rather than become loud and combative, this facet of Mercury will quickly use Uranus' brilliance to try to talk itself out of a jam. This may not always work, however, because this transit is known for unpredictable outcomes. We may not get fired for being a rule-breaker, but a supervisor could give us a good tongue-lashing (which is a Mercury manifestation). Let's not be the ones to lose it and explosively bark back at the boss, unless a new job is already lined up and waiting.

ONE TIME SHOT?

It is important to realize that any Uranus transit can feel like a "chance of a lifetime" to us. It can seem that Uranus is presenting an opportunity that may not come around again, which is why we typically feel we just cannot put things on hold any **longer**—especially if we are undergoing the urgency of the square or the opposition. If we are very creative types, Uranus contacting Mercury could spark a major brainstorm, a new, breakthrough concept that might excite and enlighten the public.

It's as if this new trend or progressive direction is waiting in the ethers for an independent and original thinker to reach out and grab it. This suggests that if we don't give form to this energy and do something with it, someone who's more fired up **will**—maybe with spectacular results. Nobody cares later if we claim, "But I had that idea first!" Procrastinators and deadbeats always lose with Uranus. Should we even hesitate because of self-doubt, the rewards of following Uranian flashes of insight are bestowed on somebody else who will dynamically put them into motion. We need to have the gumption to follow through *now* with our futuristic ideas and make that daring leap into tomorrow. Uranus doesn't benefit those who always want to play it safe, waiting around for the "perfect" time to take action. Besides, does a truly perfect moment even exist?

INTO THE UNKNOWN

Once it aspects a planet, Uranus will not aspect that *same* planet again in the same angle formation while transiting through that *same* natal house for approximately eighty-four years. Some of us may unconsciously sense that this is a rare moment, which is why we feel a pressing need to make decisive, turning-point changes (not because we feel totally self-assured). We probably can feel uncertain up to the very last minute before we make our decision and move on it. Uranus carries with it that nail-biting sense of the unknown, producing a little anxiety until pivotal missing elements suddenly come together and impel us to act decisively.

Inwardly, we may know that once we start, things will never be the same. Are we completely ready for that potentially destabilizing experience, asks our Mercury? Air Mercury enthusiastically answers, "Yes, siree!" It then adds that we might want to check with old worrywart Saturn first to make sure we've got our facts straight and that we're well aware of any pitfalls. How much we let Saturn dominate our consciousness can determine the degree of faith that we have in our Uranian opportunities at hand. Saturn doesn't care much for being uprooted and would probably give our seemingly rash plans a thumbs down. Well, that's just *too bad*, **Saturn—this** is *not* your transit. Mercury has the last word, at least in theory. Still, it's not wise to ignore Saturn's "look before you leap" policy.

Often, should we resist doing *anything* because of fears and insecurities, external changes will be forced on us (with the blessings of our Higher Self) in order to liberate us in the long run from stifling attitudes. Uranus wants to make us look at things differently and more courageously. We may think some matters are beyond our immediate control, and maybe they are. That's usually because the kind of control we would try to enforce, based on our limited awareness, could botch up this planet's bigger and more ingenious plans. What we'd be willing to settle for seems a bit dopey and boring to Uranus compared to what we really could have instead. Mercury likes to make plans, but Uranus seldom will abide by orderly step-by-step procedures. The anticipated

timing of an outcome is thrown off, usually in a unexpected manner that benefits us. By taking advantage of Saturnian delays, Uranus has more time to reinvent its scenario for the better. Making broad but tentative plans that allow for a few alternative routes seems the smart thing to do during this transit.

TALKING TRUTH

With Uranus transiting Mercury, we may finally have a chance to think for ourselves regarding a wide range of topics. Ideas seem to come at us from nowhere, but they also move us to sit up and pay attention. Some of our thoughts seem to be crystal clear and full of certainty. We could discover that we have very strong, if unpopular, opinions. Airy Mercury is sampling a little of Uranus' truth serum at this time. One result could be that we don't wish to further engage in meaningless chit-chat, to say just what's expected of us, to communicate merely to keep social interactions smooth and harmonious, or to say what's politically correct. Instead, some of us may want to let our words fly and say exactly how we feel, shocking others with a few zingers just to keep everyone on their toes! However, the results could prove disastrous if we're freely mouthing off to the wrong people. Neither Uranus nor air Mercury are well-qualified to read others emotionally, which is very important when we're trying to get our point across to a potentially sympathetic audience. Our not-so-carefully-chosen words could backfire.

Some folks will find us moody (although that's not quite what's going on), or perhaps erratic (they may have a point here), or at least contradictory (now that sounds right on target)! We indeed can be very changeable while, at the same time, appearing to be intensely sold on our ideas of the moment, especially if ours is a fixed Mercury. The winds blow in all directions at the same time. It becomes harder to determine if we have any real mental focus, since we can operate in fits and starts. This could make us appear merely unreliable to others, even if it's solely due to unexpected events.

With the transiting sextile or trine, we have an extra amount of adaptability working for us, partially due to a more cooperative environment that facilitates our changes. That alone can make us less mentally willful or defiant, as well as more able to make the best of any unstable situation. Should we decide to alter plans in midstream because of unexpected last minute factors coming on the scene, such changes often amazingly benefit all parties involved (leaving everyone satisfied). It's a beautiful thing to watch the workings of an unfettered Uranus creating such synchronicities. People born with a Uranus/Mercury trine or sextile are probably used to this phenomenon by now. Paying attention to these transiting aspects in full swing and observing how Uranus works can be an educational eye-opener.

LIFE'S INTERRUPTIONS

Because Uranus and air Mercury can be fickle influences, most so when they join forces, it's best not to firm up long-term commitments before we've allowed ourselves sufficient time to consider the pros and cons. We're more unstructured mentally than perhaps we realize. Others could suffer annoying disruptions due to destabilized thinking on our part, and vice versa. Particularly with the opposition, we may attract people whose behavior is undependable, interrupting careful plans and wasting our time and resources. Something we weren't even thinking about can slip us up, and it might be due to another's restlessness; he or she could abruptly pull out of a mutual agreement at a most inconvenient moment, and leave us little time to get our plans back on track. Yet Uranus works well under such crazy pressure, and we surprise ourselves with our brainstorming abilities, or perhaps we benefit from the brilliance of those we attract. Still, nothing feels solidly in place for a while.

However this plays out, it's good to read the small print before signing contracts during Uranus periods. We can't afford to leave even minor details unattended if our project involves precise coordination. We need to make sure that nothing is too binding and unalterable. An escape clause is always a handy

thing to have. Uranus is much happier with flexible negotiations, because it knows we will have an itch to modify things in the near future. It's quite a reviser of plans. Only the hopelessly stubborn or chronically pigheaded bring out the worst of these transits.

STUDY MANIA

It is typical during this transit that we stumble upon a body of knowledge that fascinates us. Let's say it's astrology. Our inclination is to want to learn as much as possible as soon as possible. We could buy plenty of books recommended by others and plunge into our new study with great gusto. Usually, what we learn is absorbed more quickly and easily than expected. The air side of our Mercury is excited by what it's getting into. We are able to keep up the momentum for a while, especially when we attract others with the same interest.

However, at some point, and without much warning, Uranus has had enough of putting its laser beam focus on just one topic; it's ready to move on. Unless our Mercury is in a fixed sign or in a natal aspect to Saturn, we'll probably lose interest in our new studies as quickly as we began to pursue them. We therefore shouldn't try to buy too many books or sign up for too many courses during this time, because we are in a manic stage regarding knowledge-gathering that may not be easily sustained. Other interrupting life conditions could arise and force us to put our studies aside for a while. When we return to them, the thrill is gone. We can't get as motivated to learn as intensely as we were before. So, let's not make this venture too costly. Buy one or two good books on the subject and see if we are truly as interested as we think we are before going hog-wild.

URANUS TRANSITING THE FOURTH HOUSE

ANGULAR SUPERIORITY?

Uranus transiting our Fourth House takes on a bit more importance because our Fourth is also an angular house (like the First, Seventh, and Tenth). **Planets—especially** slow-moving **ones**—crossing over our natal angles surface their energies more readily and expose their intentions to the outer world for better or worse. This has given the false impression that their influence is therefore stronger because of their greater visibility. I discounted that theory early in my **studies—even** before reading that Michel and Francoise Gauquelin's exhaustive research determined that planets in "cadent" houses (the Third, Sixth, Ninth, and **Twelfth**—all traditionally deemed the least potent areas) were nonetheless quite vital in determining outstanding success in certain careers according to the nature of the planets posited therein.¹ (I was born with Uranus in my Third and, during my preliminary studies, didn't appreciate reading that this planet was in a "weak" zone in my chart. It's not a planet that feels weak to **me—wacky**, maybe, but certainly not weak!)

Each cadent house has something to say about the workings of the human mind. Probably during the time that this concept of

cadent house "weakness" came into being, **ideas—especially** those bombshell ideas that went against teachings of the Church and the authority of the **Crown—were** allowed fewer channels of open expression. The mind's potential was more suppressed, few people were allowed formal education, and the printed word was less accessible. I would bet that this contributed to astrologers' dim view of cadent natal houses in those days. Hopefully, by the next century, we'll finally get off this "weaker" versus "stronger" kick regarding any factor in our birth chart. This terminology can be highly misleading when analyzing a real person's chart; the same goes for using the biased and inaccurate terms "good" and "bad" regarding aspects.

SHELL BREAKING

Uranus is here passing through a house known for its tight emotional hold on potent security **symbols—our** family, our home, heirlooms, or anything that makes us nostalgically feel attached to the roots of our past; it describes our heritage on all levels. The Fourth pushes for close and enduring connections that support long-lasting stability and protection. Well, Uranus certainly has its work cut out for itself! Bonding Fourth-House style can feel more like *bondage* to this planet. Before this transit's over, there will be some hard shells to break and maybe a few tears to shed. We've kept a lot of emotional memories internalized that now need dramatic release.

Yet Uranus refuses to support much of the pitiful whining that can go on in this **house—not** to mention any regression technique we may seek to help us dig into the dirt of our childhood years. Parts of us can refuse to grow up in our Fourth, and yet Uranus insists that we free ourselves of any and all infantile needs that, unfortunately, still pack a punch in our **psyche—especially** if we've already gone through our transiting Uranus square Uranus cycle (around age twenty-one). However, impatient Uranus has little interest in delicately exploring every detail and

nuance of early traumas suffered. That's Neptune's territory. Neptune, feeling no need to rush the awareness process, doesn't care how long it takes to resolve such painful matters; it's not paying attention to time anyway.

THE SKY'S FALLING?

Just because Uranus conjuncts our Fourth House cusp (the “**astrological Nadir**”),² it doesn't mean everything here starts to come apart immediately. The sky isn't **falling...yet**. The Nadir's degree itself can act as a trigger point. For such a so-called “up-front” angular house, the Fourth can be quite indrawn and subjective. It would seem that Uranus intends to shake us at our roots and show us in clear terms the limits of seeking complete security through others, no matter how much we need them or depend on them to need us, too. Uranus figures that nobody should hold that kind of emotional power over us. Saturn going through the Fourth usually comes up with similar conclusions, but we react to this awareness with less volatility. In the course of the next several years, we will find ourselves pulling back from such dependencies, sometimes very unexpectedly, even defiantly so.

THE GYPSY IN US

Circumstantially, a growing restlessness deep within can manifest as an urge to relocate, to get away from our current home base and try out previously unexplored places to **reside**—**not** necessarily for logical reasons. Some of us are looking, even if unconsciously, for any location that will remind us little of where we presently live. We are growing tired of the sameness of our surroundings. We just want to pack it up and move it on out. It's not something we may even be willing to mull over for a while. Short-term escape urges now override any long-term security needs, with unpredictable results; this goes against the grain of typical Fourth House motivations. How uncomfortable we are with our “inner” home is often determined by how ill at ease we are with

our current domestic conditions. The impulse to transplant ourselves elsewhere is a sign that old security patterns are no longer working for us. Feeling trapped in our current home and being eager to uproot ourselves is an example of this.

Often, we have not given ourselves adequate time to do our homework and plan our getaway (particularly those impatient Martian types among us). Therefore, we could wind up in a locality that soon becomes too much of an environmental shock. Unpredictability strikes again. We probably don't even get to visit the new area we are relocating to first, at least not for long. Our move is based on a strong hunch that this is the right place, for now, to resettle. While we probably will learn to "make do" in this new place, we may not quite feel at home with our living arrangement. We might even regret the fact that we can't fall back on those former comforts and familiarities of our previous residence that we took for granted.

Of course, the transiting trine or sextile imply that we may fit in different surroundings more quickly, probably because we are not as much at odds with ourselves regarding security issues. Uranus is ready for us to enjoy anything and everything unfamiliar. However, with more frictional aspects, we may discover that moving far away does nothing to relieve our inner dissatisfaction—this could come as a big, perplexing surprise! The turmoil we may feel within does not disappear just because now we have lovely palm trees with coconuts swaying in our backyard.

All Fourth-House matters reflect sensitive, feeling-charged issues that often have to be approached delicately. We wouldn't enjoy some freak tornado sweeping through, swooping us up skyward and then dumping our psyche in the strange land of Oz. So why intentionally stir things up prematurely that will strongly impact our feelings? Of course, Uranus insists on its own unusual agenda. Maybe because of our tendency to suppress Fourth-House energy due to our insecurities (it's the house of late-bloomers), Uranus operating from our unconscious depths feels especially eager to activate a few drastic inner and outer changes. It might be better to first take a pragmatic look at our options.

DESIGNER HOME

Do we really need to live 3,000 miles away just to bring in that new Uranian energy, or should we first attempt to remodel parts of our home (along with elements our life)? It's not an easy call, since do-it-yourself home repairs can be a nightmare under the wrong Uranus transits (i.e., Uranus squaring or opposing the Moon or our Fourth House ruler). Even the most carefully laid plans would undergo interruptions left and right (heck, *especially* those). It would be better to call in the experts, because a dose of sensible Saturn usually helps Uranus work out better. It is common with Uranus in this house to have an interest in doing a few very individualized changes to the structure of our home. That alone suggests needed professional feedback from those with plenty of experience.

If everything turns out fine, we could end up with the most unusual-looking house on the block (which is also the case should everything turn out horribly). Besides, moving thousands of miles away or even replanting ourselves in a new country means we might have to let go of many of our possessions in order to lighten the load. Yet under a Uranus transit, we could be too quick to get rid of too much, only to regret our hastiness later. I would think this deserves thoughtful planning (of course, my Moon in **Taurus**—a sign easily attached to **possessions**—**rules** my Fourth House cusp).

Only you will intimately know the details of your circumstances and what has led you to this "once in a lifetime" **crossroads**. Remember, even the best decisions under a Uranus transit don't always seem like they make a lot of sense at the time. In general, we need to rearrange the furniture in our "inner home" even if we do not relocate anywhere. This transit will last a while, giving us ample time to experiment with letting go of unworkable attitudes toward what we emotionally cling to. We can embrace new versions of security that free us inside. We learn to be gutsy, and it can feel good. From this point on, we become less rooted to things of our past. The Fourth represents how we handle our "old age" (the closing years of our life); therefore, Uranian insights

gained now can even prove very valuable later during our actual retirement years.

MATERNAL FREEDOM

The Fourth House describes mothering themes as well as the family dynamics we were exposed to while growing up, particularly during our tender years. It's the house that depicts whomever symbolizes for us a protective matrix, specifically that parent more likely to envelop us in loving care. This is not true of all moms—what about mothers who are crack addicts, mentally ill, or child abusers? Also, more dads are trying out "Mr. Mom" roles than they ever have in the past. Fathers with a strong maternal streak are not as rare as they once were. Still, the Fourth is most likely our mother, or, more precisely, our *impression* of our mother and the qualities we draw out of her as a result of our personal security needs. However, we should remain open to the possibility that our Fourth House actually depicts the more emotionally nurturing parent of either gender, plus our response to such comforting treatment is also implied.

Whatever the case, Uranus passing through this house marks a time when clarifying our dependency issues becomes critical. How emotionally connected have we become to our mom (or dad), and is this connection unhealthy at this point for either of us? How much does our family depend on us for psychological support, and are we finding this burdensome? What parts of this relationship make us feel trapped or uncomfortably obligated? Wherever Uranus is, we can become claustrophobic when unable to have the wide, open spaces we need to breathe. Too much closeness becomes problematic over time.

Uranus helps us to become more objective about our situation. There is an urge at this time to pull away from too much family commitment. If this urge remains unconscious, it gets projected onto our mom or perhaps the family at large. Disruptions can occur. Sudden and unanticipated conditions can alter the rhythms of our usual emotional patterns, catching us off guard. Uranus implies that there could be a parent in a state of

agitation, restlessness, defiance, or internal chaos. It can also suggest a parent ready for an inner awakening, a breakthrough in self-awareness, or a strong urge for freer independent expression (such as a mom who goes on strike and refuses to further cater to the needs of other family members, suggesting a mix of rebellion and liberation). All of this becomes symbolic of how we subconsciously feel regarding ourselves.

Because Uranus stays in this house for many years, changes may not be all that drastic. Our mother could start to seek freedom in small ways in the beginning, leading eventually to more courageous efforts on her part to become her true self. Her unfoldment can be delightful to watch if she has formerly been inhibited or suppressed. Maybe Uranus hints at a change in mom's marital status that could be self-affirming. Certain limitations are removed. Her ability to strike out on her own in some way can surprise us. We'll have to back off and not throw our unresolved insecurities onto her while she's in this special transition state (although her interactions with us will change in ways that can unsettle us, at least in the beginning). A truth we may have to accept is that our mother needs to separate from us and from anyone else who has made constant emotional demands on her. This is now her turn to find out what she's all about, on her own terms. We can say bye-bye to those limiting labels that have neatly described her and her role in the past.

If we have been blinded by the depth and power of our own attachment to this parent, meaning we still cling to a maturity-defying part of ourselves, Uranus is ready to shake the very foundation of our relationship, if need be. Life will remove mom's influence from us in some way, by force in some cases, making us feel suddenly abandoned. Our reactions to this can be very chaotic and subject to rage (the fury of the infant denied); or we could turn cold and become emotionally distant. Gaining a clearer perspective is healthy at this time, but being remote and out of touch with our feelings is not a good sign. Still, it's hard to tell anyone how they are supposed to behave during this period. We can be filled with psychological insight one day, and be shaken up at our roots the next.

FLASHING ON FEELINGS

The Fourth is also where we get a chance to develop our own maternal energies. Uranus can here awaken hidden strengths involving our ability to nurture and nourish ourselves and, eventually, others. Although Uranus itself has no interest in tenderly mothering anything or anyone, it is very concerned with releasing any human potential that we otherwise hold back due to fear, doubt, insecurity, or ignorance. Uranus sees Fourth-House issues as challenges that allow us to have remarkable insights about people's emotional subtleties. We can learn to read others better than we usually do. Our instincts prompt us to respond quickly to unspoken needs. We can't remain unaffected by our environment for too long. Therefore, somewhat paradoxically, Uranus triggers human warmth and caring if we have been too cool and uninvolved in the past, but it also does whatever it takes to thwart or turn off our hungry feelings of neediness if we have failed to develop a sufficient degree of separate identity. Uranus spurs flashes of insight into the nature of our deeper feelings in order to make necessary improvements. As a result, we learn to interact in closely bonded relationships better than we have in a long time.

URANUS/MOON TRANSITS

ROOM TO BREATHE

Uranus aspecting our natal Moon heralds a time of needed, honest self-encounter regarding how much we either feel or do not feel at home with ourselves and others. Uranus is no empathetic hand-holder (that's Neptune), so we may experience a few rude awakenings regarding our existing emotional attachments (of course, with the sextile or trine, emotional insights could prove clarifying and even exhilarating). One realization that may result is that sufficient detachment is imperative in order to discover how to best "mother" ourselves at this point in time. We don't need total detachment from our **dependencies**—just more breathing space from others than we've allowed for in the past.

We also need to anchor ourselves in a reality that allows for the freedom of greater self-sufficiency. That should not preclude close, warm human involvement of a healthy nature, but it would suggest that we stop latching on to people we think we need (or those who need us) for all the wrong reasons. The Moon reflects habitual, subjective responses that are hard to break, especially involving people we subconsciously attract for security purposes. Such folks reinforce our emotional expectations, for better or worse. Uranus wants this process to become more conscious than it usually is. However, it's doubtful whether it will ever become completely conscious. Then it would no longer resemble a true lunar experience, which often requires us to go inward to reach those parts of ourselves that defy intellectual analysis or articulation. That doesn't mean we can't get a better understanding of at least some aspects of how our Moon's dynamics work. Uranus will always try to shed light wherever it can, particularly where it is most needed.

FEELING CRAZED?

Uranus is famous for its reversals, so those of us who are already a tad too remote and emotionally distant may find, during this transit, that Uranus smashes open a dam of buried feelings. We've already been quite good at detachment in relationships. This transit becomes a time to experiment with intimacy. Uranus won't stick around for the long-term results, but works as a catalyst during this transit. Uranus' patterns have a touch-and-go quality; there are no guarantees that its varied human experiments will prove successful. Still, it's worth a try to uncover our capacity to feel deeply for others so that we willingly seek closer human involvement.

A lot of powerful feelings we never suspected we had can come gushing forth, surprising us and others. We have to watch out for that transiting square, quincunx, or opposition! Each can describe a temporary period when we feel crazed by our mood swings, at least until we've had enough time to subjectively adjust to Uranus' newer and more unusual rhythms. We can appear hyper

and high strung, or have ups and downs that unnerve us and sometimes agitate others. Emotional outbursts can occur, although some of this can help clear the air with those we feel have stifled us. Uranus is trying to get us to push off people's oppressive influences and whatever else has weighed us down in our relationships. Our Moon could use a little creative instability at this time to help us shake off habitual ways of responding in close partnerships.

TURNUED UPSIDE-DOWN

To effectively use this transit, emotional objectivity is a must (and that's no easy feat). Maybe we realize that if we are to make any sense of our current life situation, we will have to address exactly how independent and self-reliant we really may be deep down inside. Few may appreciate what we are internally going through at this time. We alone are to discover what we are about at the roots of our less-conscious being, as we go through possible periods of fitful and turbulent self-revelation. We've been harboring inner self-impressions for a long time that we adopted due to early family conditioning. Some of these are what we needed for our growth and still need; but other imprints from childhood have turned out to be unnecessarily heavy weight.

This becomes a time to turn our emotions upside-down, to shake things up and see what falls out. Whatever hits the ground no longer needs to be kept. The feelings that do remain intact are those natural to our being rather than programmed by others. They don't need to be uprooted and changed, but simply recognized for the strengths they provide us. Uranus is trying to get our emotions to support and feel comforted by a greater reliance on ourselves for true security.

JUST SAY NO

Uranus, a loner at heart, advocates our singular self-focus as a less complicated way to explore ourselves without the inhibiting influence of others intruding. However, this does not have to be a

lonely experience; we can still have people around us, as long as our links are not too emotionally sticky. If we have a lot of water or air in our chart, we might not like feeling temporarily cut off from the familiar impact of others, even though we are excited about redirecting attention back to ourselves and our newly discovered, subjective awarenesses. Social isolation is not the intention of this transit, but neither is giving in to the manipulative neediness of others. We are learning how to say no to people's demands, maybe while also showing them how they can independently fulfill their own needs.

Fire and earth are more self-reliant to begin with, and may not encourage a lot of heavy-duty emotional interchange at this time. Freedom from the influence of others could be quite welcome. Finally, we're taking a breather from giving attention to our committed relationships. Of course, we won't feel like this every day during this transit, because Uranus is sporadic in its operation. We still will have moments of contentment in our partnerships, but usually not for long. Freedom calls, and that can get in the way of our or someone else's beautiful dreams of undisturbed intimacy. Uranus is a particularly restless energy when blended with the changeable Moon.

NOT SO DEEP

This is not a deep or quietly introspective "going within" period, unlike Neptune aspecting our Moon. Uranus itself is not that reflective and it doesn't really ponder experience; it doesn't slowly mull things over. Instead, this can be quite an active and vigorous time, although occasionally erratic and nerve-racking: we're up, we're down, we're feeling settled one minute and displaced the next. Emotional sparks fly every which way, yet the overall **result** is externalizing and enlivening. Life may even seem faster than usual to us, with its day-to-day tempo quickening. Still, we may feel eager to go at this peppier pace, avoiding or abandoning whatever seems to drag on; our instincts are telling us to keep the excitement level up and to bypass the boredom of routine whenever possible.

When we stubbornly refuse to make needed inner alterations and instead hang on to our worn-out security blankets, we merely goad Uranus to turn on its higher voltage (that special juice it normally reserves for those electrified experiences that catapult major changes). One result is that life suddenly yanks the controls from us (as if disgusted with our predictable responses), and sets off dramatic, attention-grabbing fireworks. Typical target areas become those "people" attachments we have invested with a lot of emotional energy, seemingly forever. A few of our unions may threaten to break down. Interruptions occur to alter our accustomed patterns. This could prove exciting or threatening to someone in the relationship. No matter what the transiting aspect is, we'd do better not to try to keep everything in its habitual place. Why tempt Uranus to jack up the voltage? Here is one time when just going with the electrical flow makes the most sense, although this may not be apparent at the moment.

MIXED FEELINGS

The Moon, one of our parental planets, usually tells us plenty about how we relate to nourishing, maternal energy. Perhaps some of the symbolism of this transit gets projected onto our actual mother (or maybe father, if he's the only parent left in our life). Observing our mom and the changes she may be going through could offer us a few indirect clues about our own internal challenges (maybe *we* are playing out a "mom" role with someone else). What we cannot afford to do now is to get too caught up in her or any other family member's dilemma, because this goes against the purpose of this transit (it's a time of emotional detachment enabling a broader self-perspective). The same advice would also apply to Uranus going through our Fourth. We need to reconsider our nurturing urges. Some of us may flat out go on strike and refuse to cater to others, especially those who have been expert emotional manipulators in the past.

Still, we could feel torn between wanting to involve ourselves in parenting a parent or other loved one in turmoil and unrest (the result of our old lunar conditioning) versus wanting to pull

back or just get away from it all and let others fend for themselves (due to **our** newly emerging autonomous urges). If we make the wrong moves at this juncture (due to nagging feelings of Saturnian guilt), other people's lives, with their crazy, disruptive issues, can send ours into an uproar. Our feelings become agitated and our normal rhythms upset. We can get ourselves off track psychologically and suffer a major developmental detour. Any freshly formulated goals could then be put on hold or even aborted, while everything in our life feels chaotically up in the air. It can happen so suddenly. It's good to think this out before becoming embroiled in any interpersonal involvement that we already have mixed feelings about on a gut level. We can't afford to ignore our inner voice now.

A BIT FLAKY

Uranus contacting our Moon is a time when we find ourselves getting out of emotional slumps or black moods, because something in our world is now invigorating our feelings. Our emotional batteries are having a good recharge. We may instinctively magnetize events and people that put us in touch with novelty and originality. Our world can look offbeat to us, but in a satisfying way. Creative unpredictability is part of the atmosphere we attract. We are not to securely ground ourselves at this time and make firm commitments or promises that we are in no condition to keep. We are allowed to be fickle and a bit flaky in our moods and impulses. We should just enjoy the freshness of experiences that come our way. Obviously, only very short-term obligations involving others will do (and we do them because they seem like fun to us, like something different).

RESTLESS HEART

Home-improvement projects may appeal to us at this time and are reflective of our internal renovations. We are trying to give birth to an ideal form of shelter. However, **we'll** have to make sure that we don't try to do very complex jobs by **ourselves** that take a

lot of time or many separate steps. That's because we could lose steam and fizzle out in the middle of our undertakings. Once the thrill is gone, we might want to disconnect from the project entirely. Things could come to an abrupt halt. Still, if we can pace ourselves and try not to do too much too soon (no urgent deadlines, or five things going on at once), we can replace an old, tired look we've lived with for a long time with one that shows touches of innovation and individuality.

Of course, wanting to leave our home and instead try out a different living environment could be another option (especially with the transiting square, the quincunx, or the opposition). Much of what was said about Uranus going through our Fourth House also applies here. Our restlessness is driven by a feeling of being trapped, and that alone can push our panic button. We can perceive our condition as terminal unless we do something drastic to enforce change. Practicality doesn't have to fit into the picture, but immediate relief does. We can suddenly transplant ourselves in order to achieve quick gratification, only to find out later that a little sensible planning would have made our move much smoother and more satisfying. In addition, we might bring any inner emotional turmoil with us to the new place, so that our unsettled situation continues. It's probably wise to stay put until we have had a thorough inner dialogue about our real needs. Otherwise, we're just running away from unresolved parts of ourselves—doing that can be a big waste of energy, time, and maybe money.

SUPPORTING OURSELVES

By the time this transit is over, we may learn to avoid relationships that are built on too much dependency (especially the one-sided kind). Uranus has taught us not to get sucked into the lives of needy people. We still can get close and become warm in our intimacies, but now we may have developed the internal resources needed to alert us when to back off and create or demand healthy space for ourselves. We may feel more secure,

knowing that we won't always be as ready to support others while depriving ourselves of healthy **independence—and** we are also learning to not impulsively seek their support as well.

NOTES

- 1 Jamie Binder, *Planets in Work*, ACS Publications, Inc., San Diego, CA, **1988**, Chapter Four.
- 2 A technical note: Steven Forrest uses the term "astrological nadir" in his books (see *The Changing Sky* in the Bibliography list at the end of this book), probably to differentiate it from that point on the celestial sphere directly beneath the **observer—also called the Nadir—**used in the *horizontal* coordinate system. There, the Nadir is always found opposite the Zenith. In contrast, the astrological Nadir belongs to the *ecliptic* coordinate system and is exactly the same, northernmost point also known as the **Imum** Coeli, which astrologers refer to as the **IC**. The astrological Nadir is always opposite the Midheaven and is not to be confused with the other Nadir. Whenever I use the term "Nadir," I'm solely referring to the "astrological" definition.

URANUS TRANSITING THE FIFTH HOUSE

FREE TO RISK

Uranus should have a lot of fun passing through the Fifth. This house is linked to those recreational options that allow us to let **our** hair down and literally "re-create" ourselves for the moment. It's a risk-taking zone; of course, venturesome Uranus loves hearing that. Hopefully, we learned to accept emotional risks in the Fourth that have led us to the discovery of greater, inner security. We are now to undergo an extended period in our life during which individualism (a Uranus and Fifth House issue) is given freer reign of expression. This is an opportune time to experiment with our talents and to display ourselves in highly personalized ways. We could surprise ourselves by how and where we unexpectedly shine. Even others are amazed. Our creative drives are in need of a big boost, and Uranus can provide the right voltage of electricity to turn on the bright stage lights.

However, much depends on how comfortable we are about revolving around ourselves, acknowledging that we are the star of our show, and the main act. We're also the director and the producer. Many people do not allow themselves full permission to strut their stuff, as least with the level of confidence required to

be convincing. Others may believe it is wrong to be so darn full of unabashed ego. Uranus, however, simply thumbs its nose at party-poopers who would dare squelch the human capacity to become larger-than-life. Now's our time to wow our audience with whatever we've got that's so great, even if the reviews are mixed. Hopefully, if we've emerged from our Fourth House transit feeling like a different person on a new footing with the future, with most of our old insecurities wiped out, we are now ready to explore this new and fertile creative territory.

LIVE WIRES IN LOVE

One area where we can test Uranus' electricity is in our love life. The Seventh House is actually where two people attempt to merge as one committed couple. In the Fifth, we initially are looking for sparks to fly with others who make it easier for us to show off *our* pizzazz; we also want to enjoy *their* special personal assets as well. Some people, however, are perennial deadbeats, dull and lifeless no matter who they're attracted to or what's happening in their Fifth House. Uranus works better with those of us who already are live wires, spirited and eager to further discover more of our colorful potential. The thought of losing or even altering our identity in the process of becoming more intimate with another would be very unappealing at this time. Uranus has absolutely no plans to give up its identity to anybody else, period! During this phase, it's more thrilling to appear uncommonly special to another and even to the world itself.

We will probably find ourselves wanting to call the shots in our romantic affairs—not so much controlling them (that's unlikely to occur) but attempting to steer things in the direction that most stimulates us. We may want to make exciting things happen; we can also attract a dynamic partner who has no trouble doing this for us (if we constructively project our Uranian needs onto our lover). That other person becomes a terrific turn-on, allowing us to feel alive and well, and ready to let our hair down. The electricity crackles between us. Both parties recognize

the strong magnetism involved and want to do nothing but encourage it.

However, infatuation can be a pitfall unless we are really clear that we're just "playing the field" and indulging in bold flirtation. Uranus is not prepping us for serious long-term involvement. This can be a problem; we may not realize that we are play-acting at this time, and that we are more dramatically in love with the new, improved version of ourselves than with our suitors. We're not really ready to settle down with someone yet; our lovers may not feel ready for full commitment, either. Therefore, it's best to be upfront about our intentions in these relationships and let the chips fall where they may. Hopefully, we learned the value of such open feelings when Uranus was transiting our Fourth. Our lover may decide that we're much too intense, and thus may get nervous and suddenly abort the affair. Although such a quick ending can jolt us, we need to realize we are not to become too attached too soon to any love partner, and that perhaps we need to take periodic intermissions in the pursuit of romance now and then. Other creative areas of our Fifth also need to be explored.

HANKY PANKY

Yet what if we are already married? We'll need to infuse our committed partnership with a measure of romance and adventure to keep things from growing stale. If our marriage is on the rocks, we might give ourselves license to graze in stranger pastures. Any new person we pick to relieve us of our marital **monotony**—usually it's someone who's quite emotionally unavailable in the long **run**—**could** turn out to be an individual who can trigger both our powerful erotic impulses and our emotional volatility. We can feel thrilled and yet agitated about this, which is one of those typically paradoxical Uranian reactions. Sometimes Uranus acts like an edgier, keyed-up **Mars**—**the** energy it arouses becomes aggravating or tempestuous.

The trouble is that we may forget that we're only in this extra-marital affair for the exciting rush of experiencing somebody new who knows little about our psychological baggage (unless we are the blabbermouth types who advocate full disclosure of ourselves as the best policy). We can plunge headlong and headstrong into this affair without really knowing whom we are dealing with. All we know is that we have a lot of passion to burn for the right stranger. However, it's typically a short-lived passion. We or our lover can eventually end up feeling shell-shocked after one of **us**—becoming less emotionally **accessible**—**pulls** away or becomes harder to reach. We may get anxious when our phone messages are not promptly returned, or when our lover claims to have to go out of town on "business" a lot. We may also allege that neither of us had planned to get this much emotionally involved in the affair; things "just happened!" Actually, very little in our Fifth "just happens" romantically to us unless it's going to put us smack-dab in the center of special attention that we normally can't get elsewhere. The feeling is anything but casual on our part.

Those of us who are married or single and are attracted to someone who is still married should start preparing for what may come. Uranus does not engage in steady emotional commitment, perhaps especially so in torrid affairs. It prefers that heady **whirlwind** kind of stuff, with nothing too predictable. So tread carefully here, and avoid trying to emotionally manipulate someone into becoming what they really are not (after all, this *ain't* the Eighth House). Things here tend to backfire when we operate under ulterior motives and show false fronts. We cannot get away with trying to seductively rope someone into a sexual liaison that we hope will later provide us stability. Sometimes we are the one to suddenly bail out of this crazy up-and-down relationship, even if going back to our spouse does not seem to be a real solution. It is better for us to face our marital issues squarely to determine the cure for our emotional restlessness. If this marriage is not to work out, we at least can sidetrack a chaotic ending by first getting divorced; a third party only emotionally complicates matters at this time.

CRAZY MIXED UP KIDS?

We are alive and well with Uranus even when things get intense. Drama is part of the Fifth House package. Anything bland is to be avoided. We may witness much of Uranus operating through our children (a very common projection), some of whom may now start acting out of character. Rebelliousness on their part tends to symbolize hidden unrest on our part. Their open agitation represents our inner, unresolved friction (maybe involving our dilemma concerning creative channeling). Our kids may break a few rules here and there, and even get in trouble with authority (which includes us as parents). However, we'll also need to examine our *own* desire to have things our way and to not allow for the interference of others to change our plans. Maybe we're suppressing the need for a tantrum, especially if our lifestyle is colorless and no one's noticing who we are. Our child may be mirroring our "inner child," who is ready to break out on some level and get its need for attention met.

Rather than suffer a stunning clash of wills, we had best pull back and give our offspring needed space (basically because *we* require a break from parenting). Unless our children are getting into deep trouble due to severe internal turmoil and outer social defiance, we can afford to let them self-discover on their own terms, just as we're trying to do. Otherwise, we'll alienate them even further at this time. The key is to not give them so much space (Uranus can go to extremes) that our strategy is misread as indifference, lack of caring, or cold aloofness. Remember, some degree of Saturn (the rule-enforcer) helps an otherwise defiant Uranus work better. Our children may fight against our authority as an unconscious way to test out the state of independence they will need to exercise in adulthood; yet they will also require appropriate structures to follow. Otherwise, they can run wild with a favored Uranian group of peers and create much havoc and heartbreak.

Uranus could also suggest that we may witness a child ready to emerge with unsuspected, special talents. It is important to keep in mind that he or she represents a part of ourselves that we'll understand more clearly when we willingly own up to our Uranus experience. What our child may undergo is rapid acceleration on some level. We would likely see our kid at this time as precocious, brilliant, advanced, and even touched by genius. He or she may not look or behave like a child. One trade-off is that this kid could also be too different from other children to be accepted, and thus could be unpopular. He or she could be left out of social activities that require peer conformity, but maybe gratefully so (whereas transiting Saturn here could mean our child feels distressed about being shunned). Our kid may instead become preoccupied with an inventive world of his or her own design and therefore claim to not miss wasting time hanging out at the mall or yakking for hours on the phone to friends about nothing. As long as there is a powerful computer hooked up to the Internet in the house, this kid is probably most happy electronically exploring the world, and maybe is even designing a web page! Still, all of this could make us uneasy.

One last thing about kids: we can have one when least expected if we overlook a few simple protective measures. Uranus doesn't want to feel confined, and birth control devices may seem like obstacles to spontaneity and to pleasure. But in actuality, raising an unwanted child could be a confinement that we'd regret for many years to come (although with Uranus, a surprising change of heart is possible and we could suddenly adore being a parent to this very special little boy or girl). Still, unplanned pregnancies are to be avoided, because Uranus will be in this house for years, suggesting that we'd feel tempted to shirk our parental responsibilities (especially during those demanding and energy-taxing pre-school years). Abortion may be an option, but it's a decision that can catapult some of us into disruptive states of internal or external conflict.

GAMBLING FEVER

What about gambling? Uranus will sometimes take risky chances just because they are risky. However, the Fifth House likes to end up as a winner; its aim is to reap rewards, honors, and whatever else glorifies the ego. First-class treatment is sought. Uranus has a more detached "win some, lose some" attitude. It's a planet that knows and accepts how unpredictable life can **get—and** why not, since Uranus itself is the main instigator of the unexpected? Should we allow ourselves to invest at this time, it's best to do so with an awareness that the pattern of our speculative ventures will not be a smooth one. However, that can be good in the long run, because detours and turnabouts here can lead to sudden benefits. Our transiting aspects can give us clues about whether it's even worth getting involved in all of this. This can be a nail-biting time for those of us who are rigid, poor-loser types. We'll need to be as adaptable as possible, free of fixed expectations, and willing to not always hit the jackpot. Uranus will make it clear that these matters cannot be controlled by our will.

EGO BOOST

Speaking of **our** will, Uranus is stimulating us to apply more **will-**power in ways that can raise our self-esteem. Uranus can demolish an over-blown ego, but it also attempts to breathe new life into a deflated or underfed one. We may awaken to ourselves and recognize how important our individuality is during this **transit—**plus how necessary it is to keep experimenting with further developing that individuality. This means having the guts to stand out as being special in some way, and to be anything but mediocre. False humility is not supported. Uranus can't understand what could possibly be wrong with being in awe of one's surprising talents; such self-excitement is not unlike the exuberance of children who realize that they are spontaneously creative.

FUN HOUSE

One final thing: when as the last time we took on a new hobby? It's probably been a while since we've allowed ourselves quality play time. We now need to loosen up and do whatever feels good, whatever brings us joy, or whatever reclaims the fun part of being young again. We need to find time to go hiking, or play the casinos (without going too wild here), or take up belly-dancing. Maybe we can learn to fly planes or go hot-air ballooning. Whatever our interest, Uranus is in a perfect position to trigger unexpected skills never before displayed. This alone expands our perception of ourselves. Let's pretend that we only live once and take that creative plunge. Life sure looks better when we are free to "do our thing" and feel a little joyous doing it.

What we cannot afford to do during this period is to bore ourselves with an anemic presentation of who we are. Hobbies offer opportunities to explore our unexpressed dimensions. **If you don't** have a hobby that excites you, get one! Better yet, try to figure out why you've deprived yourself of such sources of pleasurable recreation for so long. Those of us who are without hobbies probably have low expectations of ourselves, and are probably unwilling to test out our talents and demonstrate our skills. Uranus can enlighten us about how much inner enrichment we could receive if we'd just radiate from our center and throw ourselves into an assortment of sparkling activities that can make living our life a true pleasure.

URANUS/SUN TRANSITS

TRUE COLORS

Any transit to our Sun by one of the Outer Planets is considered to be a big deal. For one thing, these aspects are not a dime a dozen. When Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto have a dialogue with our Sun, we have a chance to make meaningful alterations involving our core being—our life-essence (which the Sun symbolizes). This affects our overall, operating consciousness, influencing everything

we do. With Uranus, depending on the aspect, we can undergo breakthroughs regarding how we demonstrate our individuality. We can shake up parts of ourselves in ways that enlighten us, even if this disturbs others. Uranian changes are seldom understood and appreciated by all interacting parties involved.

Uranus urges us to emphatically put our unique thumbprint on all that we do, reinforced by the Sun's need to stand apart from the crowd. Self-recognition at this time can lead to unexpected detours on our life-path, surprising both ourselves and others. A sextile or trine may not be the dramatic turning point that the square or the conjunction can be, but even in this instance we can feel the itch to show our true colors to the world by waving our flag of freedom. This is all to be done in an open, conscious, and unambiguous manner. Subtle reflections are not part of this planetary combo, but bolder attempts to grab the world's attention *are* often to be found here, although sometimes inconsistently so.

However, an issue of willfulness may need to be addressed, especially with frictional aspects in operation. Heightened self-will—**further** fed by a sometimes too self-confident, bossy **Sun**—can override caution, common sense, and consideration for others. People may find our actions abrasive and jarring, especially if we are at war with these energies internally (a lot of what Uranus stands for threatens the ego-glorifying Sun). However, successful Uranian transits seem to depend on effective, inner, Saturnian development. Since both join forces as co-rulers of enlightened Aquarius, each planet's strengths need to come into play. Saturn lays the groundwork that provides us with built-in safeguards that keep Uranus more manageable, if possible. However, even a mishandled Saturn can sometimes resist the set rules and regulations of outer established authority, although more from a point of resentment than active rebellion.

WAYWARD WIND

When we're out of touch with our Saturn, any Uranus transit can add an extra dose of defiance (even when these two planets are

not aspecting one another at the time). Those of us who already lack self-control and maturity usually don't make the best of our Uranus transits. We are too unstructured and undisciplined to harness this planet's energy, so things can quickly go haywire for us (maybe dramatically so, with the Sun involved). We could also be too insecure to accept this transit's push for major repatterning in our lives. However, if we already feel solid and sure of ourselves from **within**—signs of a healthy solar **ego**—we are less likely to defy society with our obstinate, wayward, or bizarre behavior. Instead, we are driven to awaken our real self in a manner that can affect the progressive development of the world, even if only in small ways. Uranus can act as a light-bearer, while the Sun helps us to shine and radiate our strengths. Together, they suggest an ability to dispel those darker elements of society that are born of ignorance and of fear.

In a less idealistic manner, this transit stirs an inner urge to function separately from the influence of others. Peer pressure and conventional standards have less of an appeal for us. We can act as if immune to certain types of social programming. We ignore any pressure to behave conventionally if we deem that doing so will be confining. We won't tolerate any circumstances or people around us whose energies feel tight or binding. This becomes a life period when we might bend a few rules in order to do things in original, inventive **ways**—**especially** with the trine or sextile. It can feel like a time to have flash insights regarding stimulating new objectives and future goals. How can we free our energies and direct them in conscious, self-affirming ways? Uranus keeps us feeling positive about our future and ready to take charge of our direction. With these aspects, we are less in a state of conflict regarding our Uranian challenges (since most of the challenges presented are seldom imposing or monumental).

Yet with the conjunction, square, quincunx or opposition, our freedom drives can become amplified in ways that create a sudden and seemingly unnecessary change of course. Such a life interruption might at times prove fortuitous (accidental happenings somehow turn out lucky for us). At other times, they can seem like freak accidents. It's that old fickle finger of fate at

work again. However, life can become more interesting when we wander off the beaten path. Often, we are too impatient to wait for the best time to make changes (especially with the square, unless fixed signs are involved), or maybe we're too filled with inner discontent to objectively weigh all sides before taking action involving others (a problem with the transiting opposition). Therefore, we may make our moves too boldly and haphazardly—although less so if we were initially born with a Uranus/Sun sextile or trine.

ONE LAST ZAP!

It's always smart to refer to our natal chart first to size up our basic Uranian profile before jumping to rash conclusions regarding this planet's transits. Perhaps shy but very talented people finally break out of their introspective shells to offer the world their stunning potential when Uranus squares their Sun (a time when only the dynamics of the pushy, insistent square can get the ball rolling). Again, a lot of Saturnian inner preparation in the past may now allow us success at this momentous turning-point. In contrast, those of us born with a Uranus/Sun square may feel **overstimulated** even with a transiting Uranus sextile to our Sun. As inner tension runs higher, impulsiveness can become problematic, leading to changes that are too abrupt or inappropriate for others to accommodate.

Sometimes Uranian aspects appear to come and go, and we don't think we're really getting any mileage out of them. Life still seems to be sadly the same for us. Nothing startling or out of the ordinary happens, at least not when the aspect makes its first exact contact. This is typically due to Uranus' retrograde cycle. Using a 1° orb, any degree of the **Zodiac—and thus any planet—**will be contacted three times: first going direct, then retrograde and then direct again within a span of almost two years. Things could certainly be different by the time Uranus makes its last "direct" transit to our natal Sun. Perhaps at this time, unexpectedly, our life circumstances change in major, unforeseen ways, and yet we realize we are somehow more prepared to embrace that moment. We may not have been so ready before.

Our newly developed daring at this time is a result of those previous Uranus/Sun transits. We may not have needed to show these traits then, but we do now, almost urgently so. Perhaps we get to apply our fresh insights only when the Cosmos finally gives us the go-ahead. We shouldn't think something's wrong with us if Uranus aspects our Sun a few times and we don't pierce our nose or quit our tedious government job on the spot! Either we were not psychologically ready, or the environment didn't provide strong enough signals to initiate such radical change.

Nevertheless, Uranus throughout this aspect cycle has touched us in ways that are central to our consciousness (the Sun). Any self-insight gained can eventually help us take off in dynamic new directions—and after twenty-one months or so, we should be rarin' to revolutionize at least a few important areas that are personal to us. The first place to look for change is in the house where our Sun is natively found. This is normally a house where primary life lessons take a while to unfold. We usually become more attentive to this house's issues as we get older, as we become more realistic with ourselves. Uranus helps us to discover such authenticity. Although Uranus will not worship the ego, or tolerate its prima donna tendencies, it is acutely aware of our ego's right to creatively exist for purposes other than its accustomed self-focus. It does not share Neptune's interest in ultimately obliterating ego-awareness.

ELECTRIFIED

Actually, the transpersonal benefits of any Outer Planet are not to be had until we recognize the ego's existence, its potency, and its need to evolve along with the rest of our being. In fact, the Outer Planets can wreak havoc on ego-damaged individuals who have little sense of their center and who don't know how to establish an identity separate from others or from the collective unconscious. Such people can become victims of turbulent currents in an impersonal sea of mass-fed energy. The results of such ego-fragmentation can be disastrous, manifesting as varying degrees of mental deterioration.

How can we consciously and constructively work with a Uranus/Sun transit? One way is to make a decision to improve all aspects of our life that can no longer be contained by our "safe" structures. We'll need to muster more courage than usual to let go of certain ego-attachments and thereby look at things differently. The unexpected enters our life to help us to break away from our past; willingly allowing for this minimizes undue disruption. Uranus enables us to reinvent ourselves in ways that liberate qualities we've trapped within us for too long. This transit signals a time to release what we have formerly held back due to either suppression or **self-ignorance**. Uranus is determined to shatter elements of our past that have never once looked out for our best wishes, a past sometimes filled with powerful people trying to "keep us in our place" (whatever that means to them)!

The Uranian spirit of experimentation can be rousing. We are filled with confidence about a brighter future when we engage in unusual activities that help us embrace our otherwise dormant potential. Uranus electrifies **both** our will and our intuition in ways that facilitate insightful **self-discovery**. For once, we're alive and well, and wide awake. We can be thrilled with the individualist we turn out to be. The square and the opposition, although **aggravatingly** unpredictable at times, can open our eyes to our truer self versus the phonier roles society has convinced us to perform (an issue we meet again when Uranus passes through our Tenth). Once we actualize who we are with typical Uranian certitude and verve, we often upset the status quo of our close relationships. People may initially have a harder time relating to us, because now we are presenting ourselves in unfamiliar ways, and dynamically so. We can't understand why doing something so real and so valuable to us could, in turn, threaten others; maybe they fear **we'll** outgrow them and leave for good (which does sometimes happen).

With such **tensional** aspects, a measure of internal eruption is suggested. We not only are pushing away from control factors found in the environment or in personal relationships, but we may inwardly battle warring forces in a futile struggle to keep our ego intact (the ego loves to tamper with everything, and yet it unreasonably expects a "hands-off" policy regarding itself).

Uranus won't allow any planet it touches to function in its accustomed fashion, so here the solar ego gets a uncommon lesson in flexibility. One outer manifestation of this inner conflict is social malcontentment, but it can become a stormy attitude towards established structures that can backfire on us. Our self-will at this time is its own worst enemy. In addition, our refusal to cooperate sparks the unexpected resistance of others. The more we kick and scream for freedom, the more we invite authorities to come down on us. Dramatic clashes and uprooting confrontations can result—especially with the opposition, an aspect already poised for showdowns if need be.

EXTREME MEASURES

Extremism can plague mishandled Uranus/Sun transits. Before we've even given ourselves a healthy chance to assimilate the newly emerging awareness within us, some of us may feel compelled to allow Uranus to overwhelm us. In wild abandon, we can give in to this energy without regard for our normal securities. We rush things that would have turned out better by adopting a less hurried approach. We also may rush people into making major decisions that they're not ready to make, and sometimes they'll break off the relationship rather than undergo this kind of pressure. That's not what we had in mind. We could also wholeheartedly support social causes with more determination than needed and with more drive than anyone else can tolerate. A mishandled square, opposition, or even a conjunction can be guilty of this; we could come across as a loose cannon. This would typically be a sign that our ego hasn't undergone any stage of true reformation, but has just learned how to make more noise than ever.

However, at times, the quick way we attempt to do things becomes the ingenious way, because opportunities may only be available for a short period. Uranus alerts us to this fact, and we act swiftly. Usually, we're not so lucky, especially when our actions are fueled by obstinate defiance rather than objective truth-seeking. With the trine and the sextile, we have a better chance of getting the environment to work with our freedom

needs without stirring discord in others. Our leadership potential (the Sun) becomes more attractive and less threatening; we're not as annoyingly single-minded in our objectives and instead may show greater adaptability. We're willing to make last-minute changes that appeal to all involved.

After this transit, life will probably not look the same, which is something we may not be grateful for until the dust has settled. Our perspective has gone through a major reorientation. We become increasingly clear about our individuality, and therefore more willing to separate ourselves from any standard identification with the masses (we know we are not "just like everyone else" at this point). We have awakened to ourselves. This is especially the case if Uranus has squared or has opposed our Sun, and we have survived the internal clashes and outer chaos these aspects sometimes generate. However, even chaotic situations can help us to deal with ourselves more directly and honestly. We just need to realize that we don't have to always experience such states of disorganization in order to reform ourselves.

INTUITION IN ACTION

Uranus can open doors of perception that let us know what's going on before it happens. It sounds like a very exciting talent to acquire and certainly one that fits into any New Age agenda: tune in today and be aware of tomorrow! Yet this transit is not as likely to suggest a mental **awakening**—**where** we sit around and suddenly flash on the **future**—**as** it does intuition stimulating full-fledged, timely activity (it's like **Uranus/Mars** in this respect). Fire planets are less happy with "thinking" about things when they can instead be busy "doing" things. We may discover we gravitate toward exciting, futuristic projects that require a keenly intuitive grasp of overall conditions. We can flash on the whole picture rather than only on the details, and we quickly realize that it is a perfect opportunity to act in some executive or leadership capacity.

As long as others are willing, this could be the right time to show off our talent and bring a progressive vision to the world. It

will take much self-confidence to think in the big ways that we need to; but if we are undergoing a trine or a sextile, doors of sudden opportunity fling open. They can do so even more with a square or an opposition, with fantastic results, but we'll need to curb both planets' willful behavior. Big projects require enormous cooperation; we'll have to know when to give in to the equally brilliant insights of others. They have legitimate ego needs, too!

URANUS TRANSITING THE SIXTH HOUSE

OUT OF ORDER

The Sixth House gives us clues about the "job" of living a fully functional, productive life. It represents the details often involved in maintaining our Tenth-House career, indicating our basic approach to day-to-day work. This may not seem like an exciting place for Uranus to hang out, because the focus here is on chores and other minor daily rituals that nevertheless provide a semblance of organization and continuity in our fives. Necessity motivates us to act the way we do in our Sixth. Here we are to attend daily to those minor mundane affairs that keep everything else humming along like a finely-tuned engine. We'll also suffer consequences here when we neglect to do any needed routine **upkeep**—usually in the form of illness on some level. When a machine is not working and is in need of repair, we commonly say it's "out of order." This phrase underscores much of what concerns the Sixth. Here we learn to either fix what is broken or prevent unnecessary damage in the first place.

So what could an often disorderly planet like Uranus offer to enhance this industrious life department? Wouldn't it seem better if Uranus just took a sharp turn and went elsewhere? After all, it

seems to trigger a little chaos wherever it goes, which is just what the Sixth House would rather avoid. Uranus is not a tidy planet, while the Sixth can be quite a fastidious house. However, we do a lot of mundane things in this life department **monotonously**—robot-like at times. This seems boring from a soul perspective, and seemingly does little to demonstrate our true essence, or life spark. Uranus wants to break up a few such patterns to prevent us from further operating like a computer chip. Mindless repetition is the kiss of death for Uranus, especially if done at a snail's pace and without heightened mental stimulation.

Uranus can instead offer the Sixth some nifty short-cuts to run things more efficiently, which is great. Although the Sixth House hates to waste precious time and energy, it ironically ends up doing so by painstakingly following standard procedures without **deviating**—Virgo has this problem, too. Uranus here can apply its brilliance toward faster problem-solving in ways that satisfy this productivity-valuing house. We'll have to reconsider our time-honored ways of doing things and instead allow for more experimental techniques.

JOB QUEST

It's not uncommon to hear clients state how much they hate their jobs, but dare not jeopardize their employment status. Instead, they force themselves to cope with boredom, just so they can receive a steady paycheck and the security of company benefits. Transiting Uranus lends no sympathetic ear at this time. Its mission is to uncover the unvarnished truth behind any matter, and the truth here is that things are getting mighty dull for us. Being bored silly with anything is one way we evoke this planet to suddenly spring into action, according to its own unpredictable timetable. There is apparently a lot about our current Sixth House experience that doesn't thrill us, so transiting Uranus goes on a campaign to reform our working goals and objectives. This increases the level of excitement, while also raising the risks that such alterations imply. To cope with changing events here, we'll need utmost flexibility as Uranus rolls the dice.

This transit lasts for several years; therefore, any fireworks in store for us won't necessarily take place as soon as Uranus crosses our house cusp, unless a natal planet happens to be there or at the cusp of our Twelfth (thus opposing transiting Uranus). Due to its recent passage through our Fifth House, we probably have learned that life will now allow us more fun and creative self-extension. That alone should help us to feel we can tackle more interesting, individualized work in the Sixth. We need to know that it's worth doing tasks that further awaken our self-esteem. More of our true self needs to sparkle on the job, and it can, if we allow ourselves room to stretch. Any job situation that discourages individualism and independent thought will prove to be a dead-end road for us.

It sounds like we just might have to quit that tedious stint at "Burgers R Us," and seek new avenues of vibrant but workable self-expression. That oddball but seemingly ideal job set-up that we've been toying with now deserves serious consideration. Many a Uranian path can seem impractical or too radical at first, only to prove to be a stroke of genius later, as everything suddenly comes together. However, we'll have to make sure that we are completely sold on our talents before making any big leaps. At least, we'll need to realize the therapeutic effect that a job that allows for extra freedom can have on us. Some of us have felt straightjacketed in the way that we serve the world. We're now ready to follow our special vision. We also have to know when to allow for unexpected changes to occur in our future game plan.

SMART CHANGES

We will need to assess our working skills, taking stock of ourselves and clearly appraising our more versatile **assets**—**but** not in the slow, analytical manner typical of the Sixth House. Uranus instead quickens this experience by providing us with flashes of insight and spurts of inventiveness. We are to brainstorm our way to vocational independence, being careful not to repeat any self-limiting attitudes we've adopted regarding employment in the past. Turmoil felt at this time is often due to inner clashes

between our daring urge to try out something different, versus our fear of abandoning all that we have carefully developed for ourselves in our career. Perhaps not *all* needs to be abandoned, just those parts that feel stagnant. Still, in the Sixth we worry that it doesn't make a lot of sense to suddenly change our direction according to Uranus' impulses.

Some of us will resist making needed changes here to the **nth** degree (while armed with plenty of rationalizations about why we can't afford to alter our pattern). If transiting Uranus aspects our **planets—maybe setting off a natal T-Square—and** we still refuse to dislodge ourselves from a going-nowhere job, life will toss a few, hot lightning bolts our way to shock us into making a no-nonsense change: we are suddenly downsized, or maybe unexpectedly our company goes out of business, or perhaps we've come in late a little too often and now get fired for this and other seemingly minor infractions. Not being punctual or careful on the job is one early-warning sign that we no longer want to be employed where we are; it's just that we haven't let our conscious self know this yet. Maybe we quit in disgust, realizing that we are wasting our talents in an unappreciative work atmosphere.

However it happens, our removal from a work environment that no longer offers growth for us should be seen as a step in the right direction. It is true that we won't feel very secure and **sure-footed** while things are shaking and shifting, but we'll need to suspend expectations of security for the moment and live in the now. Instability is normal and necessary for the transition we need. Why fight the process and flirt with a nervous breakdown or even attract a major accident that can render us unemployable for a long time? It's best not to unduly frustrate the Uranus principle by refusing to modify our unsatisfying situation (besides, this can be an unhealthy exercise in futility).

HEALTH SHAKE

Speaking of health, this Uranus transit can throw a few surprises our way if we've been neglecting the body maintenance ideals that the Sixth House supports. Through our aches and pains, life

lets us know that elements of our inner and outer selves are also "out of order." The Sixth House works hard to ensure that things operate flawlessly through the development of efficient systems, methods, and techniques. Here we are motivated to take practical action regarding whatever malfunctions or impedes smooth performance. Uranus knows that being sick or physically unfit can rob us of many simple freedoms that we normally take for granted. Anyone who has broken a leg has found this out firsthand. We simply invite limitations when we are not well or able-bodied. Uranus will use sudden illness or physical mishaps (accidents) as a wake-up call, showing us the results of building up unchanneled inner tension (all of it tied to our resistance to accept change). Physical symptoms, of course, also are the consequences of not taking good care of ourselves in terms of nutrition, exercise, and overall physical fitness (in our willful neglect of the laws of health).

Such symptoms tend to pop up out of the blue, demanding sudden adjustments. Sometimes we're the ones who demand instant relief. We can develop tics or twitches overnight, nerve disorders involving strange tingles, or sudden, inexplicable flare-ups of whatever has bothered us in the past. I don't wish to provide neurotics with a long list of ailments to further worry about (besides, with Uranus, the symptom we'd probably fixate on most is rarely the one that actually manifests). However, rigidity is one of Uranus' most despised **enemies—paradoxically**, Uranus itself can display unbending self-will when it meets with opposition. Doing whatever we can to release our **body's** stiffness also helps to relax the psychological tensions that create such symptoms.

We need to find some lively technique involving body movement that can loosen us up; aerobic exercises have enough get-up-and-go to appeal to Uranus, as long as we throw in a lot of variety. Even "jazzercise" classes or tap-dancing lessons may **do—anything** peppy that keeps us on our toes or in continuous motion. Maybe we'll have to mix a few techniques that interest us and come up with our own formula for staying healthy and fit. Of course, since Uranus loves gimmicks, some of us may be tempted

to buy those amazing-sounding health gadgets advertised on late-night TV, especially those that promise quick results.

Before this transit is over, we may have made some sweeping reforms regarding body/mind well-being. We can become more conscious of how we deal with our basic physical requirements. Learning to value good health as our most direct source of vitality is important to Uranus, because it does its best when we feel alive and well, and in tiptop shape. Still, Uranus can go to extremes. We'll need to make our positive changes without resorting to ideological fanaticism or to a strident revolutionary spirit (that's when we obnoxiously try to forcefully awaken the whole world to our exciting health discoveries). We shouldn't be so quick to jump on the bandwagon, and attempt to suddenly reform everyone else's health habits. After all, that tactic would not have worked on us before we became so "enlightened," and we certainly would have resented the pushy approach involved. So why indiscriminately pitch it to others? In general, Uranus moving through the Sixth is a time to clear away blockages on all levels that have kept us functioning inadequately. Think of it as a well-needed, cosmically timed tune-up.

IDEAL WORKPLACE

Another Sixth House theme involves our dealings with co-workers. Uranus would love for us to be independent, free-spirited types who are non-salaried and not under any binding **contract**—we're happy freelancers instead. Total self-employment becomes highly attractive to this planet. In Uranus' vision, we'd preferably work from a home office equipped with state-of-the-art goodies (computers, high-tech toys, amazing stereo systems, voice-activated machines, and other futuristic touches). Lots of window space, opening up to a breathtaking panoramic scene, is also important (we need as much natural light as we can get). What we wouldn't do in Uranus' ultimate fantasy is rub shoulders with co-workers on the job. Uranus can't handle the hive mentality of busy working bees that obediently follow orders from the higher ranks. In real life, however, most of us do have to relate to other

employees in a work structure that is often anything but relaxed and casual. The impersonal roles we perform can feel artificial after a **while—and** we may not even have a room with a view!

REBEL CO-WORKER?

Transiting Uranus can easily be projected onto a co-worker who suddenly doesn't want to play by the rules. Small acts of rebellion can make this person a pain in the neck in our opinion, even annoying to other workers. Uranus represents the one who is a nuisance in any group, the disruptive one who doesn't agree with social protocols. This person simply ignores whatever he or she doesn't want to do. Perhaps this individual engages in inappropriate activity, or merely attempts to violate something as basic as the dress code. Uranus can't understand what's so important about dress codes anyway, and sees them as just another excuse to enforce totalitarian rule (an extreme reaction typical of Uranus). Our relationship with any **singled-out** co-worker can be uneven, choppy, abrupt, or unnerving. However, if the aspects formed at this time are less tensional, we can view this worker as a breath of fresh air, as somebody novel, fascinating, brilliant, or even multi-talented. He or she is certainly not stodgy.

Such co-workers become symbols of our unrecognized inner rebelliousness and our readiness to be liberated from conformity. We wonder how they dare to get away with such behavior, and yet their spirited independent streak holds an appeal for us. We probably need to show more of our real self on the job as well, at least in measured amounts over time (let's keep old Saturn happy). However, if our environment prohibits this, we can soon begin to feel that we are definitely not in the right job atmosphere. Unexpected clashes with other employees are warning signs that unrest is building within and is looking for ways to erupt. We can get flat-out fired for being confrontational, or perhaps we feel so alienated and disgusted that we quit in a huff. Uranus here means there will be no beating around the bush when it comes to making timely or untimely exits. Once we break away from our intolerable condition, we may feel disoriented for a while until we land a new and hopefully improved job situation.

URANUS/EARTH MERCURY TRANSITS

NOT SO AIRY

While the air side of Mercury deals with our mental development in terms of Gemini themes, earth Mercury becomes an indicator of how we apply ourselves when organizing tasks or tackling jobs through analysis and practical evaluation, Virgo-style. It deals with mental activity brought down to a functional, efficient level. If our Mercury is aspected by transiting Uranus, there is no **sure-fire** way to indicate if the earthy side of Mercury will be triggered into action versus its airy facet. However, if natal Mercury is in our Sixth House, rules that cusp, or is in Virgo itself, we probably will handle this transit along more pragmatic lines of thought. There may be less of an urge to concoct brilliant abstractions that sound fascinating but have little chance of being useful and marketable. Earth Mercury will also operate better at a slower pace; it cannot afford the needless distractions that air Mercury looks forward to during the course of a day.

GOING ON STRIKE?

How we feel about doing the daily routine services that we provide (either in the home or in the office) may now undergo radical change. Uranus is urging us to halt operations on some level, often unexpectedly so. This is especially the case when we realize how totally unstimulating or slavish many of our little rituals have become for us—**maybe** it's the endless cooking and cleaning chores that bug us, or those other required tasks that do little to enhance our sense of individualism. In the home, we may rebel and disrupt our family patterns, causing temporary conflict. At least this remains a relatively self-contained protest, a minor revolt, and usually not the kind of issue that leads to **divorce**—just a lot of unmade beds.

However, when we attempt to struggle with our internalized unrest on the job, perhaps with our co-workers or with our work itself, we can stir up trouble for ourselves. It all depends on how

Saturnian **our** job environment is. Can we be flexible with rules and experiment with our own procedures, or is everything done by the book? Obviously, the options of a freelance graphic artist with this transit would be different than those of a federal government employee. Still, whatever our job is, we may find ourselves easily distracted. Our mind may be elsewhere much of the time, even though our body appears firmly planted at our desk. (Earth Mercury hates when that happens!)

Absent-mindedness on the job never looks good. Coming in late or leaving too early to go home for the day is usually frowned on (and resented by other workers who play by the rules). Frequent, unexpected sickness could make an employer reconsider our long-term value to the company. Yet sometimes this is how Uranus makes its presence known. We start to rebel against orderly habits in small and seemingly inconsequential ways at first, even if unconsciously so. But things can soon escalate.

ALL SHOOK UP

When Uranus works on this earthier part of our Mercury awareness, we can experience a disturbing kind of nervous energy that interferes with our normal capacity to tolerate repetition, routine, and minor **details—all** of which can lead to making stupid mistakes, the kind that drive earth Mercury crazy. With the square or the opposition, we can respond by having temperamental outbursts, and criticisms of our work environment might be sharper and more vocal than ever. We'll need to be careful about how we mouth **off—and** to whom. The reactions of our co-workers can be unpredictable (most so with the opposition). We find we become agitated too easily; we're more keyed-up than usual, with our nerves on edge. This could be a good time to look into foods and supplements high in nerve-soothing elements (such as **B-complex** vitamins, calcium, and magnesium). We also should ease up on our caffeine intake.

KEEPING OUR COOL

Uranus can be as hot as lightning one minute but as cold as steel the next. It's hard to figure out how it's able to switch its temperature so radically, but it can. For some of us, this Uranus transit becomes an opportunity to coolly detach from whatever might typically upset us on the job. Maybe we're learning to diffuse tensions at the workplace by turning off our emotions, and by reacting to less of what's going on around us, especially regarding the intrigues of office politics. It's best not to get too riled up about anything that could cost us our job or alienate co-workers. Feeling a bit removed from our surroundings, we may focus dispassionately on only our immediate tasks at hand, and pray that potential trouble-makers leave us alone.

This may seem to work for a while, but in the long run it's a response that is too sedate and mild-mannered for Uranus. It could also be that such detachment reflects our unwillingness to arouse the spirit of risk-taking, thus keeping us in a rutbound mindset or work situation. Eventually, some minor incident triggers a major Uranian hotflash. We discover that we can no longer keep up the cool facade. As stormier feelings enter the picture, we realize that we're not all that happy with circumstances. It's then that we can pop our cork and explode with restless thoughts of radical change. If appearing calm and collected only suppresses our more fiery feelings, Uranus will find a way to blow our cover wide open.

NOT SO FAST

Uranus likes speedy interactions, but many activities associated with earth Mercury can bog us down with step-by-step processes. Certain things in life simply must be done according to correct and sometimes painstaking procedures. Yet Uranus has little time for this, urging us to come up with short-cuts and quick workarounds. Sometimes these prove successful, but other times things go awry due to poor planning, carelessness, and overall impatience on our part. If this really bothers us, we'll have to

slow down and use Uranus' energy to promote our alertness rather than simply to overstimulate our urge to go faster. Still, earth Mercury often makes simple chores more laborious than need be, something to which Uranus is calling our attention.

Perhaps a lesson here is learning to be less uptight about outcomes. Life is trying to discourage excessively orderly behavior in our response to the many, little details that daily living demands. It would be good to allow for original or experimental thinking to help us to come up with alternatives. Here's where a Uranus **sex-**tile comes in handy; it's an aspect that shows us the value **of** intelligent adaptability. Both planets can breath easier under such a pattern and can come up with a variety of solutions. We can be more accepting of different outcomes than those originally planned. With the trine, the environment usually presents us a clever opportunity to handle matters, and one that instantly appeal to us; we don't waste much time mulling things over. Uranus teaches earth Mercury that there are many ways to tackle any problem, not just one "right" way.

LEARNING CURVE

Maybe we need to consider new training that could help us to work in different areas of our current vocational field. Both the airy and earthy sides of Mercury are keen on continued education. Earth Mercury simply is more likely to study things at length that can be applied in the everyday world. However, Uranus will only get excited about short-term studies. Specialized training that lasts a few weeks or a couple of months is acceptable, but anything involving several years will probably fail (unless we have a lot of encouraging transiting or natal Saturn and Pluto **support—two** planets that can handle grueling schedules and that can make enduring efforts).

It could be that we receive our education while on the job via hands-on experience. Our company may suddenly require its workers to learn new procedures or perhaps deal with upgraded equipment. Maybe new business software is being introduced, involving a learning curve for everyone who wants to keep their

position. With the wrong attitude, we could convince ourselves that this new material will be overwhelmingly complex, confusing, or too taxing for our brain. Yet with Uranus, it's worth the effort to take on any mental challenges offered. We could surprise ourselves with how well we progress (because there usually is a readiness for fresh mental stimulation). Any new skills developed now can help us achieve future aspirations.

BOTH SIDES NOW

In reality, when Uranus transits our Mercury, we probably will alternate between its air qualities and its earth components; we're always doing both so that we can handle a wide range of varying day-to-day conditions. Uranus certainly doesn't want to get stuck in only one mode when it can instead have the stimulation of variety. Air Mercury provides needed flexibility; earth Mercury provides needed workability. Together, they benefit from Uranus' ability to clarify matters and to allow for the pursuit of our own inner truths. We may find we are less willing to accept other people's thoughts or follow other people's methods of doing things. Mercury is a persuasive rather than a combative planet, so maybe we can present fresh concepts and insights in a way that enthuses others to try out our novel approach. Quick-thinking Mercury wants to be ready for anything that life tosses its way, especially those interesting things that Uranus likes to fling at us when we're not looking.

HEALTH MINDED

Earth Mercury is not as strong of an indicator of health problems *per se* as the Sixth House. Still, Uranus may spark our interest in reading about alternative health measures or other unconventional ways of integrating body, mind, and soul. This can be quite educational, fulfilling earth Mercury's need for helpful, useful information that can be put into immediate practice. Even starting new exercise programs and proceeding sensibly (nothing too crazy) can help us to mobilize our energies in different ways that

enliven us. It's important that we don't try to do healthy things just because we *should* do them (that's Saturn talking). Push-ups will not work for us if we truly despise doing them. However, if racquetball has always seemed like a really fun way to get one's needed exercise (and let off lots of steam), then racquetball is the way to go. We need to find activities that don't feel like a chore or a punishment to do. Otherwise, our Uranian restlessness will prompt us to quit sooner than expected (this can apply to Uranus going through the Sixth as well). In addition, our **Mercury—less** interested in purely physical **activities—will** claim it's utterly exhausted.

Again, whatever we put into practice may not last a lifetime. We will probably get bored and look elsewhere for new solutions. But for right now, getting charged up about our health potential and optimum body functioning is an excellent way to partake of this Uranus transit. We just need to be careful of those activities that have a dare-devil quality to them (maybe this is not the time to take up bungee jumping). However, there's nothing wrong with a little lively tennis, or at least with reading a few "how-to" books about improving our bowling technique.

URANUS TRANSITING THE SEVENTH HOUSE

OFF TRACK

Transiting Uranus entering the Seventh House actually triggers two transits. As it first crosses the Seventh, putting emphasis on changes in our more intimate relationships, it simultaneously opposes our Ascendant. The Ascendant is that specific part of the First House experience where we show to the outer world an image that helps us move out into that world, hopefully with a measure of courage and self-reliance. It is that part of ourselves that we **semi-consciously** activate in order to initially confront the immediate experiences we attract. Others who don't know us very well usually identify us according to surface personality traits emerging from our Ascendant. Transiting Uranus in opposition aspect suggests a sudden lack of stability in how we present ourselves. We may feel thrown off our normal track, which can be disorienting. However, this could be just what we now need most for accelerated inner growth.

This is especially the case if we have a fixed sign rising, because then our Ascendant identity is probably well-entrenched and less responsive to outside alterations. Fixed signs usually only follow their inner promptings while ignoring or resisting

external pressures. In contrast, mutable signs **rising—Gemini, Sagittarius, and Pisces (but less so Virgo)—may not**, in the beginning, differentiate the initial Uranus shake-up from the typical personality fluctuations they experience. However, Uranus is not superficial in its influence; therefore, it will try to effect change on deeper and more crystallized levels of our being, because here is where we can unwittingly trap our fuller potentials. Uranus doesn't waver in its actions as much as can the mutable energy of these signs.

ELECTRICAL CHARGE

Whatever our rising sign, now we suddenly feel as if we have **out-**grown many of our familiar projections and are eager to explore different patterns in close relationships. Remember that this is an opposition at work, and therefore a balanced response on our part is not easily achieved. There's a tendency at first to overreact to our new Uranian surges. The people we may accidentally involve ourselves **with—our chance encounters—are** quite different from us in ways we may not know or fully appreciate at the moment. We just see them as exciting, animated, very friendly, and refreshingly up-front. These folks won't allow us to get away with much psychological game-playing; they insist on our self-honesty, and even know how to bring that out of us. There is a special electricity in the air when we get together, a high degree of mental rapport that puts this relationship in a category all of its own. It's partly the newness of this energizing but often off-beat association that helps us to come alive.

Meanwhile, the person with whom we may already be involved (spouse, live-in lover) also appears quite different from us in ways we are beginning to find alienating. How interesting that at this moment *everyone* appears to be different from us! Actually, this can be a time for us to breathe fresh energy into an existing marriage, or its equivalent, if there is plenty to support in our union. We could be undergoing a temporary slump that can be remedied by the quick energy pick-me-up only Uranus can provide. However, this is not accomplished by magic or wishful thinking. Uranus demands honest confrontation and insists that

we air any pent-up feelings. Things can get intense at times and periodically explosive. Sporadic emotional flare-ups force uncomfortable dialogues. We get to see a few of our own shortcomings as a partner. Still, for the survival of any relationship that's worthwhile, we'll need to simply weather the storm as we continue to get real with ourselves and our partner.

PARTNER SHIFT

Sometimes it's our partner who stirs up much of this Uranian energy on behalf of the ongoing growth of our committed union. This becomes a **mate/spouse** willing and able to let go of stale ways of interacting, one who instead adopts fresh approaches to intimate relating. He or she may even take on a different look to go along with his or her progressive attitudes. Maybe our partner feels very headstrong and determined about embarking on a new **life direction—such** as quitting the corporate world and working in a plant nursery instead, plus finding time to do a little free lance photography on the side. "To thine own self be true" becomes our partner's motto. We may fear that our significant other is pulling away from us while affirming his or her significance. Even if this is true, it could nevertheless be a good thing for the evolution of our union rather than something to be dreaded. Time will tell.

During the beginning of this transit (when Uranus opposes our Ascendant), we may be taken aback by these unexpected and disruptive **changes—perhaps** the biggest threat being that we may have to alter ourselves in order to readjust to **our** mate. We may wonder, "Why does our partner have to change on us now? Where will that change lead?" Until we can better assimilate all of this, we'll need to back off and give our mate a lot of space to act out his or her awakening urges. Maybe that's our biggest challenge. Uranus will make it clear that we do not own our partner and never did, which could come as a shock to those with Venus or the Moon in possessive or controlling signs such as Taurus, Cancer, Scorpio, or Capricorn.

If our committed relationship is beyond hope, with nothing worth salvaging (perhaps it has been toxic for years and has stifled our freedom or right to be ourselves), something is likely to

come about to bust things up once and for all. It would help if we participated in this experience by calling it quits and moving on with our lives. This takes courage, and a strong feeling that a better future awaits us. However, real life shows that some people's circumstances, even at this time, can be exceedingly complicated. What if our unbeloved is sick and dying? Do we just bolt without looking back, or do we dutifully play a wait-and-see game? It never looks good when we abandon a partner who's gravely ill, even though Uranus itself would easily do so without batting an eyelash—emotional detachment is no problem for this planet, and to hell with what others think!

UNCERTAINTIES

Sometimes what keeps a miserable, estranged union going long after its expiration date is economic reality. At least one of us, and sometimes both, literally cannot afford to break away and be free of this tie. Don't blame **karma—insecurity** is the issue. We feel that we must establish greater financial independence before we can make any radical moves. We also may want to break away without regrets, which could create further hesitancy on our part. We may even be intimidated by the thought of the high cost of a turbulent divorce proceeding and the monetary or property settlements to be determined.

Of course, Uranus says these are not good enough reasons to do nothing and, instead, to stay trapped and angry. We certainly can't remain in such a pressure cooker situation for "the sake of the children," considering the damaging emotional instabilities of our marriage. We'll have to come clean with ourselves psychologically, address our fears, and then review all viable options. Any reluctance to change this familiar scenario, dissatisfying as it is, could be based more on a distrust of the unknown that awaits us than on any valid financial excuse.

SHOCKING PROJECTIONS

Our urge to merge is strongly at work in the Seventh House even when times are rough, and it can overpower our better judgment.

No wonder many of us are indecisive whenever heavy-duty planets are crossing this area of our **chart—especially** Uranus, a planet that refuses to give us clear-cut guarantees of secure outcomes. Some of us may sit on this frictional energy for a while and do nothing. That usually backfires, provoking Uranus to set up unexpected external solutions via our unconscious projections. The more external, the less controllable the outcome. Yet trying to fully control things when Uranus is active is nearly impossible anyway.

And so, instead of having the guts to divorce our spouse once and for all, he suddenly dies in a plane crash. Instead of not leaving our partner because she is "so dependent" on us, she willfully embarks on an extra-marital affair (leaving us stunned!) and tells us she's moving out. Perhaps we hang in there and cope with a loveless marriage because of compensating material comforts, only to find our spouse is now filing for bankruptcy due to bad business deals or gambling addictions we knew absolutely nothing about. Uranus can work in ironic ways. Maybe the stress of a constant clash of wills becomes a strain on our health, and one of us in our relationship develops acute symptoms that put us through a health scare. Is ignoring our Uranus challenge to change worth doing this to our bodies? No way.

STRANGE AFFAIR

Similar to Uranus in the Fifth, this Seventh House transit could create for us an opportunity to develop another relationship that is in strong contrast to our existing, dissatisfying partnership. Uranus is not particularly comfortable with the tradition of marriage or monogamy, probably because it's not comfortable with social traditions of any sort. At this time we could almost literally bump into some sparkling, effervescent individualist who operates on a fascinating wave-length that we'd love to share. And guess what? They're infatuated with us, too, which comes as a big surprise! We may feel we haven't had such special attention in a long, long **time—maybe** never before. Now this facet of our life gets a shot in the arm of a special kind of emotional vitality that we freely want to share.

What do we really know about this energizing lover who's popped into our life? Probably just enough to make things interesting, yet not enough to prove disillusioning. Uranus provides an ideal package in the beginning that, unfortunately, may not be able to sustain itself (time is Saturn's faithful servant, and Saturn can be a harsh reality-tester). If we think that we've found someone who will save us from the pain of a failing marriage (which is actually Neptune's fantasy), our new "friend" may see things differently. He or she may view his or her role more as a facilitator, one who helps us plug into a gutsy self-determinism that in itself clears our head of confusion about our current marital condition. The Uranian lover won't take responsibility for our actions and their outcomes, which is a startling realization that plays into our self-awakening process. We're the ones who are to independently decide our course regarding our marriage, perhaps with encouragement from our new lover. At no time, however, can we resort to clinging tactics and helpless routines, for that's when we abruptly hear this special someone we're infatuated with saying, "*Hasta la vista, baby!*"

Uranus can be a crazed planet, capable of erratic behavior in matters of the heart. We'll need to first look at our chart for natal clues regarding how much resilience and emotional fortitude we have before we start to boldly experiment in love's laboratory. Let's not forget the value of Uranian detachment and objectivity. Otherwise, some of us can fall hard for a person we just "know" is perfect for us, only to find later that nobody gets to hang on to such perfection for long. The truth is, no one's ever going to be perfect.

Eventually we'd wake up very disappointed to discover that our lover is much too different from us or too free-spirited to handle. It seems such a disruptive experience in the long run. Therefore, if we are inclined to have an extra-martial affair, realize that the person we meet does not want or expect to be with us "happily ever after." This is a transitional stage for both parties involved—which could be a healthy thing. Such a transition may even be crucial for us if our marriage is "the pits" and we need a boost of self-confidence to break things up for good. Our Uranus

lover becomes the catalyst needed. The wise advice is: don't try to turn around and then marry this person! If we must marry, let's not be foolish enough to think we will possessively have that person all to ourselves. Nobody owns them!

SWINGING SINGLE

In many cases, we are single and available when Uranus enters our Seventh (typically because not everyone chooses to get married early or stay married these days). Uranus might fare better in this scenario, although it seems to have its own set of problems. Many of them revolve around the intimacy issue. Will we be attracted to someone warm and cuddly, someone obviously affectionate and caring? Nah, this doesn't really sound like Uranus. We could instead go head over heels for a charismatic, highly vibrant, and brainy gal or guy (fitting the Uranian profile), who, unfortunately, is passionate with us one minute and then strangely aloof the next.

The fact that we attract those strangely detached types says something about **us—that** we are not really ready for total commitment or that, perhaps, we are not open to true individualism in others. We don't recognize that this is what's going on inside us. Therefore, we could end up blaming our partner later for being too cold, too remote, too unreliable, too inconsistent, or just too plain weird! Maybe our partner thinks that *we're* also pretty strange ("too insecure," "too possessive," or "too paranoid"). He or she can wake up one day and suddenly decide to leave us (the bad types won't even let us know we've been **dumped—they'll** just disappear). Alive and well may not describe us very accurately at this **point—dumbstruck** is more like it!

Again, we will have several years to observe Uranus in motion and to take mental notes of our reactions to this planet. It's probably not a great time to get married, but it can work out fine if both temperaments are not the **clinging-vine** type and if a great friendship was allowed to flourish first. Unions can be real eye-openers for us, because at all times they urge the development of our greater individuality and self-reliance (even after Uranus

moves away from opposing our Ascendant). Some of what's been said can also apply to business partnerships, minus the need for emotional excitement in most instances. However, Uranus is capable of stirring up the most unexpected reactions in all of **our** closest relationships.

URANUS/AIR VENUS TRANSITS

RUDE AWAKENING?

The airy side of Venus deals with the sharing principle as it is manifested through human relationships. It is very sensitive to give-and-take issues in partnerships, especially when there's more selfish taking going on than genuine giving. This Venus pays attention to how any couple's loving feelings are exchanged. Fairness is of key importance to this planet. Libra-oriented Venus also wants things to remain nice and pleasant between people (with lots of mutual consideration and kindness thrown into the picture). Although it can handle more dynamism and complementary differences than Venus' earthier Taurean side, it still enjoys temperaments that are composed, unruffled, perhaps even **stimulatingly** assertive at times, but never aggressive. It's also a friendly, cordial Venus who's able to put a positive spin on most social encounters. It tries to see something attractive in everyone.

Uranus is somewhat open to the air Venus experience; after all, its own social straightforwardness can be interpreted at times as being friendly, although Uranus is not really an easy-going planet. Ultimately, Uranus will not be lured by air Venus' subtler manipulations (i.e., its occasional "help me" act, its passive approach to magnetizing what it desires, or the seductive psychology it uses to get others to act on its behalf). "No thank you," says Uranus! If we do possess such questionable characteristics and have applied them in many of our former relationships (or even in a current one), Uranus is setting us up for a rude awakening. These tactics won't work for us within our new arrangement; Uranus won't permit us

to use such subtle strategies. Nonetheless, things may start off "nicely" as we attract a sparkling romantic partner with an appealing personality who quickly shows a clear interest in us.

TUNED IN

Venus eagerly looks for similarities in its relationships; it wants easy compatibility with no hassles. We may appreciate the fact that, with Uranus, we appear to be attracting someone who speaks our emotional language, or who is highly attuned and attentive to us in other ways. Our new Uranian partner seems to intuitively read us like a book. In fact, we both may feel telepathic at times regarding each other's unspoken thoughts and needs. Just this alone may make us sit up and claim, "This relationship is **different—it's** going to be really special!" Yet this union should not be confused with the empathetic bonding of **Neptune/Venus** affairs. Uranus doesn't want to merge, but expects to simply enjoy the stimulating exchange of two separate, well-defined egos. Uranus also doesn't anticipate that everything will run smoothly, and is not bothered by periodic flare-ups. Flare-ups keep things exciting and vibrant.

We may initially warm up to one another quickly. However, if we have been possessive with our past partners, this transit will pose quite a challenge for us. Why so? Because sky god Uranus doesn't like being trapped in earthy experiences and will only make physical contact sporadically and briefly (as demonstrated by lightning strikes, where the high voltage force of such electrical phenomena can damage form and structure). Holding tightly onto something or someone is not part of the Uranus experience. Uranus won't tolerate static conditions for long, no matter how harmonious things appear to be on the surface.

The air side of Venus can appreciate the freedom urges of Uranus, because air needs its space, too. Earth Venus probably has more of a problem here (especially if we have in the past inappropriately turned our partners into our possessions). Thus, the best advice during any **Uranus/Venus** transit is to live in the moment and enjoy our highly energized relationship, but don't

quickly start building emotional structures intended to support long-range security needs. That could send us into an unanticipated tailspin, should this union suddenly stop working for our lover (the one who usually plays out the transiting Uranus role for us). However, sometimes it's our *lover* who wants to cling to us (we knock **his/her** socks off and he/she is in awe of us). That's around the time *we* start looking for a quick exit. Uranus cannot tolerate being pursued by anyone filled with too much emotional intensity and a determination to have a settled union.

SOCIAL SPARKLER

One benefit of this transit, whether in romance or in our social life, is that we loosen up our approach toward people, and thereby open ourselves to a wider range of interesting personalities. This could be good for those of us with a natal earth or water Venus who typically are less outgoing and self-assured in forming relationships. We now seem to be more willing to reach out and explore different social interactions. Here's a case where birds of a feather do not flock together. A transiting sextile or trine gives us a gentle nudge in this direction, and we at first may simply experiment with changing our appearance and our attitude (before even considering new romantic or social involvements). In contrast, the square and the opposition carry with them the possibility of energies colliding plus a sense of urgency, which translates as quirky fate entering the picture and thrusting certain magnetic, irresistible types into our path. We can become intimate very quickly (due to an excited Venus in overdrive, because Uranus alone has no strong need or desire for intimacy).

In fact, these transits are notorious for infatuation or "love at first sight" reactions. If we are single and lonely, a Uranus transit can change our status really fast, as someone out of the blue is practically dropped in our lap. Are we ready for this to happen? Yes and no. Yes, because we will be learning new things about our emotional make-up and our ability to relate to another while in a state of high rapport. But also no, if we are unwilling or too scared to change our emotional patterns and express ourselves in brand new

ways. This aspect requires greater tolerance of people's behavior (we are going to be attracting individualistic types). We had best not try to handle such love encounters the same way we've mismanaged some of our previous unions; that wouldn't be good for our growth (and our new partner won't play by those old rules of conduct, anyway). This realization **alone—that** we are not to supervise this **relationship—could** make us feel a bit crazy and uncertain about such an obviously **hard-to-manipulate** Uranian affair.

ON THE ROCKS?

If we are married, Uranus/Venus transits disrupt the more stagnant patterns of our relationship. This doesn't have to pose a crisis (although often it does), but it could signal a turning-point for us, where we get a chance to address a different set of inner needs and expectations. This could be an opportunity to clear the air of mounting tensions due to poor emotional communication and to superficial interaction. Feelings now come to the surface, causing minor explosions that shake up our accustomed stability; thereafter, we can begin to again operate based on new understandings and **awarenesses—that is, if we** value this union at such a point. Some of us discover we do not, and will therefore use this Uranus transit to find out if we can connect with someone else "out there" who might be more suitable for us. For Uranus, the unknown is preferable to a existing union of ongoing emotional sterility or of lifeless, and maybe meaningless, marital routines.

Uranus is a vow-breaker when freedom is at stake, so we can expect to feel distractingly restless in our need to establish space in partnerships. A sextile can find small ways to introduce a little zest and unfamiliarity to our relationship. There doesn't have to be a divorce in the making or an illicit affair on the side to satisfy a **sex-**tile or a trine. However, with a conjunction, a square, or an opposition, we may feel that the intimacy we once experienced with our spouse is no longer a reality. We don't feel that special, close connection we once had. Outside relationships at this point (especially if prompted by a Uranus opposition) could prove momentarily manic if we have previously been in the slump of an emotional

depression for too long (maybe our spouse has been cold and indifferent to us for quite a while). Yet our new Uranian love interest makes us come alive and apparently validates who we are. For us, it feels therapeutic to seek such adventures of the heart.

What this also smacks of is a short-term fix (Uranus makes sure of that) for a long-term ache for real love and **companionship**, a yearning that ultimately will not be satisfied by temporary romantic diversions. Thus, quick ups also have their quick downs, which is not surprising, considering that we're not acting **level-headedly** in our love choices. In addition, our lover typically can lose interest in us if we try to get too cozy and settled, or should we desire a permanent state of spark and excitement. Suddenly our whirlwind affair can be over, leaving us dazed and more frustrated than ever. Some of us risked losing long-established stability for all of this, and now we feel jilted. Others, having little to gain from staying in a miserable marriage, now feel confused and shaky regarding self-worth. Just why our new love decided to split the scene usually makes little sense to us, if we can even figure out why this happened. Baffling Uranus often makes sure such people drop out just when things are seemingly going well, which makes it all even more maddening!

If married, it's better to use Uranus for furthering a shared exploration of honest feelings and needs first, before getting a third party of unknown quality involved. We'd be caught up in an idealized vision of the new lover we'd attract anyway, thus abandoning any practical assessment of our situation. What we're quick to call "love" during this transit is often just experimentation, something better left to those who truly are detached and less emotionally triggered. Imagine someone with natal Venus in Cancer square Saturn in Libra falling head over heels for another with Sun in Aquarius opposing Uranus in **Leo—just** because transiting Uranus is opposing that Venus. It's a recipe for volatility and eventual disillusionment, especially if this insecure Venus tries to emotionally engulf the **Sun/Uranus** lover. Such a disastrous experiment can blow up in one's face, with the **Sun/Uranus** individual soon walking away unfazed, leaving Venus shattered. We'll need to know ourselves better before we

throw away an existing union that still can be renovated, in favor of a fresh and exciting new affair that could come to a screeching halt without warning.

BUSINESS AS UNUSUAL

Business partnerships may also demand our sudden attention. An associate may want "out" of a current professional relationship, and we'll probably need to go with this abrupt decision. However, it's how this partner chooses to leave us that can be a bone of contention. Sometimes our partner has no choice but to leave. More often we feel that we haven't been given fair notice. This sudden crisis has been sprung on us without the benefit of an honest, face-to-face dialogue regarding unresolved issues. Uranus (and even Jupiter) triggering the airy side of Venus can suggest irresponsible action on someone's part, in which running away from problems provides a quick and less confrontational solution. This issue is not handled in a professional or timely manner.

However, it may be good to let this person go without too much regret (like a no-fault divorce). Often, another partner, even more qualified to fulfill our future objectives, may be just around the corner. We may connect with that new individual under surprisingly "lucky" circumstances, seemingly by accident, usually by being in the right place at the right time. Many of the issues mentioned in earlier paragraphs still apply (minus the emotional/sexual themes in most cases). Of course, if the aspect at the time is a tensional one, we're very wired up about our business disruption, and may pick a replacement too impulsively. We might panic and, as a result, make a hasty decision that later could prove destabilizing as contrasting temperaments begin to surface and clash.

With a less frictional transit, we may find that we connect with someone who's brilliant in an area of our business where we often have to struggle to make things happen. Maybe he or she has sparkling social skills that we lack, and can captivate clients or the **public**. This person has what it takes to turn things around for us in ways that can invite an exciting level of success.

However, we'll also need to realize we're dealing with an individualist who doesn't care to be told what to do. We can't afford to be bossy with this freedom-loving partner. Protective or authoritative Saturn is not what this person wants or needs at this time. Our Uranus partner will think nothing of going out on a limb based on a strong hunch, but that could turn some of us into nervous wrecks (if suddenly we revert to our more self-protective earth Venus instincts). Still, life is teaching us to take a few chances by attracting someone who finds taking certain business risks thrilling.

WILD ARTIST

Air Venus, like earth Venus, also has an interest in artistic expression. Aesthetics, refined taste, exquisite design, fashion, and architecture are all appealing to Venus' airy facet. Uranus has its own unique way of interpreting beauty, which might prove jarring to this Venus. Harmony of line and form are not critical to the Uranian artist. Balance of composition is also less important. Uranian artistry can look or sound outrageous, be very experimental in technique, and even anger-producing (due to its ideological content). Sometimes humor is cleverly employed. Uranus can use art for revolutionary purposes that make big, bold statements about the human condition. Subtlety is not the style of this planet.

Collage seems Uranian to me, as does multi-media art (such as combinations of paint, fabric, metal, and maybe even things that light up). If a work of art disturbs most viewers and triggers revulsion or the urge to censor such art, Uranus is usually at work (sometimes it's Pluto). If we're thinking some "crazy person" did the "so-called art," again we're looking at misunderstood Uranian creativity. For those of us who are freer with our artistic expression, a Uranus transit to air Venus can open the doors even wider to a world of weirdness. The transit itself can encourage such freedom. The strange and the bizarre begin to look beautiful to Uranus/Venus (the way classical portraiture and realistic landscapes do to tamer, conventional Saturn/Venus patterns). Maybe

we have an urge to dabble in trendy forms of interior design, perhaps using unusual prints and loud colors. We're looking for a dramatic touch in our **decor—out** with the bland and the practical, and in with the exotic and the attention-grabbing! Sometimes, however, our aesthetic sensibilities may go out the window as Uranus has a field day mixing and mismatching things. It can seem an assault to the senses of some people, although we, the inspired artist, may think our creative efforts are pretty cool. In short, we are seeking, first and foremost, to please ourselves.

SHARING INDIVIDUALITY

In general, this transit helps us to appreciate people and things that don't always blend together well. We'll learn to take a new look at life's contrasting features, seeing them as something that adds drama and interest to our social landscape. We may learn to realize that, while conservative behavior can be a safe way to function, it's much too bland for Uranus/Venus expression. This transit wants us to emerge as a more vibrant personality, one that would be interesting for others to get to know. It could be exactly what wallflowers and social late-bloomers need in order to sparkle. The key to success here is learning to value tolerance for all that is different. This invites a broader range of people into our sphere, who can show us how exciting shared individualism can be. We may be surprised to find how much we love this new, dynamic approach to our relationships.

URANUS TRANSITING THE EIGHTH HOUSE

TIME BOMB

Transiting Uranus entering the Eighth House meets with powerful resistance by attempting to do what it does best: uncovering the truth behind those matters that, in this case, we prefer to keep secret. In theory, the Eighth is where we have experiences that help us to probe and penetrate hidden levels of our inner **self—levels** typically exposed whenever life forces us to confront utmost, psychological pressure. This alone should provide us a few, truth-revealing moments. It does, except that this house takes its own cryptic, complex route in getting to the heart of any issue. Uranus may detour at times, but typically it opts for the quickest way to get from "A" to "Z". The Eighth House is more like a darkened labyrinth offering occasional multi-leveled clues as to how to safely navigate its tricky obstacle course. We don't seem to take easy ways out in this house. It's typically a twisted path of complications that we follow.

The Eighth House is also where we deal with guarded emotional realities that seldom see the light of day, at least those regarding our most private relationships. Some astrologers view the Eighth as descriptive of the darker underbelly of marriage,

where a whole different set of dynamics may underlie any surface appearance of matrimonial harmony. Now that we have established a committed partnership (in our Seventh House), what are we to do when this relationship doesn't immediately cure what ails us, or when it doesn't automatically provide the state of inner balance and self-completion we anticipated? Well, the wise and the brave just roll up their sleeves and get to work by facing their thornier psychodynamic Eighth House issues!

In this regard, transiting Uranus acts as a blessed messenger undisguised (it won't abide by the usual Eighth House cover-up routine). We may be suddenly alerted in our closest relationships to the sound of inner rumbles that have been operating silently underground for quite a while. If we are married, then some vital truth about our union needs to surface and make itself known. It's usually something we've kept under wraps for good reasons (maybe it's hurtful material that could damage the stability of our partnership, emotionally injuring ourselves or our significant other). Often, it is a big secret made more powerful and ultimately destructive when not revealed and shared.

Therefore, clever **Uranus**—in its brilliantly mischievous **ways**—sets up a scenario in which we or our partner seemingly stumble by accident on this hidden stash of thoughts and feelings deliberately kept from being **revealed**—until now. Some minor issue can become the catalyst for a major confrontational showdown or a long-overdue blow-up scene. This is most likely when Uranus aspects a planet that's already dealing with its own natal frictional patterns (e.g., if transiting Uranus in our Eighth squares our natal Libra Moon, which in turn also squares our natal Mars in Cancer; if suppressed, a natal **Moon/Mars** square can have problems with allowing anger to inappropriately build to the point that dangerous levels of hostility accumulate and eventually discharge in very irrational ways).

Here, explosive Uranus is touring an emotional house of active volcanoes. What potentially erupts can be quite an eye-opener and a **soul-wrencher**. When the turmoil is over, if we have come clean with our initial grievances, we can renew our commitment based on deeper mutual understanding. If not, we terminate this union

and learn to courageously move on. Things either die for very good reasons in the Eighth or else come alive again with greater gusto and vibrancy.

THE NAKED TRUTH

One lava-hot topic to confront at this time is sexual intimacy. Is someone in this union a taker rather than a giver? Has sex become a manipulative bargaining chip, a source of emotional blackmail, or what somebody selfishly uses to punish another through guilt, shame, or insecurity? Uranus says enough of these sicko **games—let** everything come out into the open (including all ulterior motives). This planet is not really concerned with sexual matters (they're too earthy), but it hates subterfuge and those nasty, sneaky little schemes we use to get back at others or to get "the goods" on them (in true Eighth-House style). Uranus would prefer that all hell break loose now, allowing everyone to show their true **colors—fangs, claws, and all.**

So far, this interpretation doesn't sound too user-friendly, does it? But remember, it was mostly meant as a word to the wise and the brave, not clueless cowards like some of the rest of us! We the chicken-hearted will probably not want to get this heavy ball rolling, and instead will seek to detach ourselves from or completely ignore any distress signals sent out by our wounded relationship. This avoidance act won't work in the long run. Something has to give way in order to ease the build-up of steamy pressures. Therefore, it's best to come clean and allow for a needed purge of formerly unventilated attitudes and feelings. Sex appears to be the issue, and yet there's something more covert, which involves power drives that need to rise from the underground. Transiting Uranus will operate here for many years, so we shouldn't feel too bad if it takes us a while to address all of the complexities to be found. These sensitive issues didn't crop up overnight, and they're not going away any time soon. We probably first saw signs of them in our early childhood, when we observed the dynamics of give-and-take between our parents, and within our family in general.

SUDDEN AROUSAL

Some of the issues mentioned above may still arise within new relationships in which we involve ourselves, even when we are single but are steadily seeing someone. Here, we may get to feel highly charged both emotionally and sexually in a partnership that unveils our hidden depths. We (our partner included) know that we can get out of this union quickly if it becomes too much in terms of psychological wear and tear. At least that's what we innocently tell ourselves at the moment. However, it would be better to first explore this relationship as deeply as we can stand to before quitting on it. By doing so, we could emerge feeling more empowered.

Of course, in some cases we also might feel devastatingly shattered once we realize we can't control people and make them stick around forever. Still, something potent within us, a source of hidden, inner strength, can now surge forth. Our new relationship attempts to rapidly pull an emotional resilience out of us that we need to own up to more consciously. Manipulative neediness on anyone's part is not to survive this transit (nobody gets away with pulling any melodramatic acts of desperation).

Things can get dramatically erotic as deeper passions that we didn't know existed spill out and intensify our bond. Curious Uranus arouses our instincts to delve further into our sensual needs. Maybe physical sex is what we think will most quickly awaken those needs. However, the Eighth is Pluto's natural domain, so at first we may not feel safe openly revealing our sexual hungers and our vivid fantasies. Strongly conflicted desires are more the norm in this house. Still, transiting Uranus works to destroy taboos and to break down resistances to a fuller release of intense desire. Why frustrate such needs, asks Uranus, only to have them turn into discomfiting obsessions that imprison us to some degree? Instead, we are to unearth this dimension of ourselves and liberate who we really are deep down inside.

The Eighth is a house where our emotional, physical, and even material appetites can get on the greedy, insatiable side. It's

often not that obvious to others just how single-mindedly possessive and fixated we can be here, because Eighth House planets seem more self-controlled and disciplined on the surface. However, with transiting Uranus, we are not going to get away with owning anything belonging to another person. People (including their psyches and bodies) are not our property for exclusive use. Uranus won't allow for seductive schemes designed to ensnare others into the sticky web some of us have spun. A burning desire for another person is okay as long as we are clean and up-front about fulfilling that **desire**—but we are not to deviously get what we want out of somebody who's not even aware of what's happening. We are not to secretly take over this relationship by using unfair tactics. Transiting Uranus will make sure this will not work for us. In fact, such tactics may dramatically backfire. In this house, we experience the consequences of unethical behavior (which I believe first becomes an issue here, even before we deal with it more philosophically in our Ninth House).

FOOTING THE BILL

Sometimes the pressing issue is a power struggle over money as a mutual resource. We could attract someone undergoing a (hopefully brief) Uranian period of financial upheaval or of some other form of material instability. However, our partner's personality is so exciting that we figure it's worth paying for more of otherwise-shared expenses than we normally would. If we are married, we probably at this point are feuding about long-time financial patterns, and how they interfere with our own freedom to currently spend money as we wish. When we're dating someone new, we may be more sensitive to the issue of taking turns regarding who pays for what and how often. This is so even if we are already living with a lover, and are not too sure where this union is headed (a likely state of mind for us with Uranus here).

Whatever the case, the money issue can suddenly open up a Pandora's box of woes, disrupting the whole works. It also puts someone's character and integrity through the acid test. Are we

truly being generous in spirit, or are we indirectly trying to buy love? Is our partner someone in a temporary state of financial shakiness, or we are dealing with a chronic moocher? Uranus insists that we see things in the clearest possible light, free of ambiguous interpretation. It is very important that we are **forthright** in our attitudes about money and **spending**—especially if we are married and going through a rocky period concerning economic survival.

Uranus in the Eighth means that we can view our partner as either a risky, impulsive spender or as a financial genius who can pump exciting, new energy into our material structure. Whatever the case, it is important that we do not lean on a partner completely for our material support, because Uranus cannot provide the predictable security we seek. This can become painfully apparent during divorce proceedings, when another's financial status is revealed to be more of a mess than we may have realized. Part of the reason that this occurs is that our partner has not felt comfortable sharing the details of his or her management of money. We'll need to look within to see what role we may have played in this. Have we been intimidating or too controlling in this area, prompting our partner to spend freely or perhaps to make unwise investments behind our back? Why does our partner pull away from us in this area in an attempt to circumvent our participation?

RISKY BUSINESS

This would not be the best time to begin a business enterprise where the start-up capital is expected to come from several different sources (i.e., three or more business associates pooling their funds to make a dream happen), even if this feels like an exciting and novel thing to do. Transiting Uranus is the tip-off that someone may bow out of this arrangement at an inconvenient time, and leave others holding the bag. Neptune transiting here offers a similar warning. Of course, if Uranus happens to aspect Venus or Jupiter at the time, a partner may enter the scene and open doors of sudden opportunity for us, only to quit unexpectedly once the excitement dies down. Maybe by then we've taken **off**running

and no longer need that particular partner's energy. Still, rather than depending on Uranian types, it's better to have some established Saturnian money hanging around just waiting for the right opportunity to be used. Even then, Uranian-inspired Eighth House business ventures may not have the longevity needed to satisfy either Saturnian money or us.

We'll need to do our homework and study the details of new **enterprises—while also brainstorming—before** taking big financial risks. We could attract amazing windfalls, but sometimes things could blow up in our face and leave us in a very unstable fiscal condition. In that case, we would feel we have no real freedom at all, because by then we may owe a lot to others who are eager to swoop down (vultures are ruled by the Eighth) and collect their money while we are in this chaotic state of affairs. This could include tax collectors. Therefore, we need to tread carefully. The bigger the deal we wheel, the greater the shock should things surprisingly fall apart at the last minute. The best advice is to keep our financial negotiations as uncomplicated as possible, yet take a few smart risks every so often when our intuition runs particularly strong. Nothing is hopeless with Uranus. Solutions may come from unexpected sources that we have yet to tap.

QUICK DEATH

It's hard to discuss the Eighth House without using the “**D**” word at some point. Physical death may seem a bitter ending to an unfulfilled life for some. To the Eighth House, it's just another **meaningful—even momentous—transition** to a more profound state of being. Like Pluto, the Eighth is interested in life's biggest mysteries, which certainly includes our death experience, and whatever part of us survives beyond that point. **Uranus** is not an emotional planet, so we're challenged to learn to approach experiences of death with greater objectivity and detachment. This helps us to accept the soul-liberating potential of dying, to see it as more than merely a sad loss of life. While detachment is often misinterpreted as indifference and even coldness, here it means

we get to explore such matters without undue fears and insecurities getting in the way. Truth-seeking Uranus wants us to get down to the bottom of it all: what really happens to our consciousness when our body dies? Where do we stand with the overall concept of an afterlife?

Uranus believes in getting real, even about those things that disturb us. When someone dear to us dies suddenly and unexpectedly (which could happen during this transit), we are encouraged to grieve as freely as we must. However, Uranus urges us not to prolong our period of mourning in order to satisfy social customs or the expectations of others. We don't want to follow any protocol, especially in this situation. Maybe we don't wish to wear dark colors at the funeral or do whatever else emphasizes the wound of death. Uranus has little patience for melodrama and romanticized pain—that's Neptune. During this transit, quick deaths can also occur on different levels other than the physical. Seldom will this transit pinpoint our own demise. It will at least take many supportive indicators in the chart before we can reach that final conclusion; even then, it's debatable whether we could unquestionably foresee this ahead of time.

What is possible is the death of negative attitudes that have had a stranglehold on us, and crippling fears that have held back our potential for years. We can experience the release of hatreds that, in and of themselves, could prove fatal at some point, the end of chronic habits that smack of self-loathing, and the death of feelings that only serve to isolate us from rich, emotional participation in the world. All of these deprive us of the vitality required to feel alive and well. None of these conditions will magically melt away. Transformation often is not a gentle process in the Eighth, but each stumbling block is to be faced squarely and willingly shattered. Uranus will make sure that no distortions are left to take hold again and do their silent damage. We will need to want this with all of our might. If we do things right, we can clear out a lot of toxic debris and prepare ourselves for the upcoming years of wonder awaiting us in our Ninth House.

URANUS/PLUTO TRANSITS

DEEP SHIFTS

Transiting Uranus aspecting Pluto is a contact fraught with tensions that are not going to help us to feel that we are on solid ground, at least not at first. How we register these patterns depends much on our age and on our emotional flexibility. The less in charge of our lives we are (maybe we're only pushing seven), and the less we know ourselves, the more these energies operate through others who control our movements and choices in life (our family, the community, or the government). Both planets, being transpersonal, can represent societal activity beyond our conscious control, especially according to the themes of these planet's sign placements. Such signs may describe background elements that play into our current situation, but they usually do not define **our** main and most pressing issues. Uranus and Pluto each deal with overthrowing something inside us that has blocked our growth for too long. They also can be extremists, forcing us to get rid of people and things in dramatic ways that completely alter our life structure and our overall perspective.

SMALL DARK STRANGER

The intention of this book is to show what we can do to help ourselves feel alive and well with the Outer Planet, Uranus; therefore, our natal Pluto will here be considered as more than just some generational marker or impersonal collective force. Let's treat Pluto as just another member of our inner, planetary family, not as some eccentric out-of-town guest who likes to wear black a lot and stare piercingly at everyone. Also, realize that Pluto has a notoriously standoffish, loner temperament and doesn't mingle or blend well with others. (Pluto will rarely attend holiday dinners or large weddings. Operating rooms and funerals?—that's a different story.) This planet represents darker, more

remote parts of our psyche that are seldom invited to participate in life's superficialities (besides, life already knows that Pluto won't show up). Dare-devil Uranus is now bent on stirring within us strong and vital Plutonian responses to our current situational reality. Uranus will make certain that reclusive Pluto sees the light of day.

Actually, people are becoming more conscious of having and needing the energies that Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto symbolize, and they're even acting out these forces on a more continuous basis in the external world. Hordes of individuals are doing their Outer Planet dramas daily, although often miserably so, as suggested by those disturbing newspaper headlines we read. Activating such drives provokes a stronger tendency to complicate our lives in ways history has never before witnessed. Oh, what our brain circuitry must be going through! The social fabric carefully woven by centuries of conservative Jupiter/Saturn values is now beginning to rip apart, for better or worse.

DEMOLITION DUO

What both Uranus and Pluto have in common is a fearless approach to altering the status quo of anything, sometimes drastically so. They both have the guts to revolt when they've *had it* with tiresome, useless structures. They refuse to be trapped by that which deadens the fires of our spirit. Nothing is to stop them in their tracks (our ego's resistance only unwittingly eggs them on to break things up further). Uranus shatters while Pluto pulverizes—please, keep these planets away from all glass objects! Together, they are a forceful combo designed to wake us up and shake us out of any deeply entrenched rut. They symbolize our ability to entirely remove long-standing blockages. The difference is that Pluto can be exceedingly slow, while a Uranian overhaul can be ultra-fast. However, once stimulated into action, they will not lose sight of their intended target. These planets can be cosmic sharpshooters.

THESE REVOLUTIONARY TIMES

Does our natal Pluto trine our Venus, or square our Mars, or perhaps quincunx our Moon? Whatever our natal aspects are, we'll need to review our current level of Plutonian awareness in light of our accumulated experiences. This means we need to honestly evaluate how transformation has played a role in our lives. Can we consciously see the positive results of our previous Plutonian trials-by-fire? How well have we dealt thus far with Plutonian issues of power, deep pain, dark secrets, lust, rage, primal passions, and other primitive instincts that we rarely vent—in fact, all of that top secret stuff we don't want anybody to see in us? Pluto symbolizes qualities that are difficult to claim as part of our makeup. It's much easier to talk of Plutonian transformation or regeneration than to actually do what it takes to accomplish it.

Nevertheless, Uranus is now ready to crash through Pluto's steel and barbed wire **door—the** one we've learned to reinforce with many deadbolt locks. Why does Uranus dare to do this? It probably senses that, on the other side of that door, trapped energy has been festering due to a lack of fresh air (ventilation) and blue sky (greater vision). As long as we hide behind our oppressive little secrets, we rob our life of a piece of the Truth. That's one potential danger that gets Uranus roused. Pluto, a planet that is as willful as Uranus, won't allow itself to be so easily invaded. A power struggle is likely to manifest, one that often comes from tensional forces in our environment.

LOSING CONTROL

We can expect, especially with more demanding aspects, a time of psychological battles involving the breakdown of long-standing, internal control complexes that now can spill out freely into the world; they become externalized as power-plays in relationships or as do-or-die survival **issues—even** involving the mighty forces of Nature. Our hyper-defensive Plutonian parts can put up a good fight to resist being overtaken until, at some pivotal point, these parts begin to turn the tables and use Uranian energy to quicken

our self-destruction. We can use our inner turbulence to relentlessly attack and destroy ourselves on some level, although not necessarily physically so. That becomes one not-so-great way to handle this enormous tension. Pluto annihilates when frustrated; heck, it even annihilates when feeling on top of things.

Another option allows us to finally release the tight power grip that any dark, psychological elements may have had on our inner development. We are to release any urge to relentlessly control our here-and-now circumstances. This transit can be a phase of turmoil for us, but one hinting at a more creative, empowering resolution. Whatever the case, any self-created Plutonian negativity is not to get the upper hand at this momentous time. The trend of this transit is to **demolish—Uranian style—what** no longer deserves to remain intact and to leach us of vitality and strength. Pluto rules vampires and other nasty blood-suckers, including the manipulative human kind. The conjunction, square, quincunx, or opposition can all be expected to take the strong-arm approach to wiping out obsessive, problematic behavior.

With the trine and the sextile, things may still feel intense (activating our Pluto always is), but at least our inner make-up is more in agreement with any reformative program that ingenious Uranus is trying to put together. We may have to release a toxic load or **two—which** alone makes us feel stormy and malcontented before we can absorb the greater benefits that Uranus provides. Still, this can be a time of heightened awareness about central life matters that have profound meaning for us, especially if we are willing to muster the courage and determination needed to usher in a few major breakthroughs in consciousness. Uranus is most interested in zapping those parts of our Plutonian make-up that are sick or dangerous to us and to others. These are the elements that need radical reform the most. However, wherever we are already constructively empowered, Uranus only seeks to increase the voltage and greatly expand our playing field.

BIG SHOWDOWN

From 1995 until almost 2004, members of the **Pluto-in-Leo** generation will have a Uranus opposition, although not all at the same time. After that, it will be **Pluto-in-Virgo's** turn, followed by the **Pluto-in-Libra** group, and so on. Given that this is an opposition, it appears at first to operate only on impersonal, external levels. We perceive its influence in the vast world around us, maybe through our nation's governmental affairs. It even seems to shout at us from unsettling newspaper headlines. Altogether, this transit appears to be collective and, therefore, less a direct part of our personal world. Our culture and our society further shape this experience, especially regarding the development of trends and events that affect mass opinion and behavior.

Still, there are some scenarios in which Uranus opposing Pluto will seem very much to be **our** own dilemma. One area, in particular, where some of us probably have ambitiously sought Plutonian power is in our career. Are we now being downsized after years of **loyalty—mixed** with unrecognized **resentment—to** a company that has merely used us all of this time? Perhaps for the company to continue to live, our working role must die. If so, Uranus is now trying to get us to recognize how our deep **discontentment—**related to the way we've been unfairly or shabbily treated in the **past—is** something that this career crisis must now bring into sharper focus. Being mistreated or undermined by the powers-that-be alone implies a Plutonian dilemma. Sometimes we've done everything to near perfection and have no axes to grind, yet we still get fired out of the blue or are singled out for whatever strange reason as someone who's disposable or replaceable.

In this or in some other area of our life, better described by Pluto's natal house, our structure may feel like it's caving in, with the walls crashing around us. From a soul perspective, however, we will end up more alive and well than ever just by psychologically surviving this destabilizing transit. Something deep inside will have its long-needed awakening. This **Uranus/Pluto** showdown can have great psychological rewards for us. The benefits

will not be apparent to us until a few years later, especially if we're currently out of a job or are devastated by some other "freak-out" incident in life. It's then that we are better able to see this period as a weird blessing in disguise. We could also live in times when social revolt is stronger than usual. Think of the Uranus/Pluto conjunction of the mid-1960s to get an idea of the urgency that these planets bring to the social dialogue; that conjunction in itself was a transit that presented personal upheavals for many folks at the time.

While we may seek to fight the System during this transit, why not turn Uranus' laser beams back on ourselves, so that we can burn through our own Plutonian darkness? We may be a product of a troubled society, but such a society is also a collective network of individual, unregenerated selves. This could also be a time for some of us to face up to our greed and selfishness as Uranus gives Pluto a momentary taste of powerlessness. Pluto's not used to being thrown a curve ball like this. Our reaction to this can be extreme and sometimes violent.

SCREAM

It's hard to say what's more terrifying to contemplate: wildly unleashing the forces of Uranus and Pluto, or *not* doing so and instead pretending everything is just fine inside us—with no problems whatsoever that a little self-denial can't handle. Uranus hates deception of any sort and is ready to dynamite the psyche if pushed to the limit by our ego's willful resistance to change. Uranus "knows" we're not as content as we try to appear. Pluto, meanwhile, quietly ticks away, aware that its time to belch fiery fury is near. The more we deny ourselves release, the more explosive are the consequences when such release is imposed on us in the form of external crises. Our soul wants to let out a few blood-curdling screams and to lash out at a world that's doing its darnedest to stifle the more vivid parts of our individualism. Pent-up and sometimes toxic emotions need to be released.

Actually, some of us do scream, kick, and scratch ferociously at life for a brief, shocking moment—just as a few cultural and

political revolutionaries did in the 1960s. We can feel as though we are outside of ourselves, oddly detached, while looking down at parts of our consciousness that are having furious fits about the evils of society, or that are railing against human injustices perpetrated by dictatorial authorities. Both hidden paranoia and righteous indignation can leave us agitated during this time. Uranus the Liberator is trying to engage Pluto in an all-out war against the destroyers of individualism. Uranus' worst nightmare is living in a totalitarian state (something corrupt Plutonians could easily create).

However, when Pluto comes alive and takes up a cause that serves the collective good, it acts with tremendous intensity and single-mindedness. Before we feel compelled to take our rage to the streets, maybe we should first experiment with our need to scream and holler while taking a shower. Remember, at some point, we'll still need to work out an internal solution to what appears to be outside enemy attack. Uranus realizes that we need to start dealing with our Plutonian realities in a much less tense, defiant manner.

AFTER THE STORM

In general, Uranus/Pluto transits provide an opportune time to do some serious inner remodeling. Effective self-rehabilitation can especially be accomplished during the quincunx phase. Uranus is trying to free us of whatever has weighed down our soul. It knows how heavy some of our Plutonian fixations are, plus how damaging it is to allow such disturbing obsessions to go unresolved. Hidden pockets of hatred are associated with Pluto, and hatred is one deep emotion with which Uranus is very uncomfortable. Uranus associates hatred with being tremendously entrenched on some painful level. This planet will do whatever it takes to blast us out of that terrible feeling. Sometimes, we'll have to let all of our seething poisons surface and vent before we can be healed. Pluto at this point is not going to feel satisfied unless it can erupt in flames.

After the storm is over, and we've gotten a heck of a lot of garbage out of our emotional system, Uranus is ready to unfold its future plans. It will present a clear, exciting vision for us, a goal that will require that we use our Plutonian powers of concentration and stamina to the utmost. This doesn't have to mean going on some messianic mission to save the world from its corruption and darkness; that route could even lead to more unexpected power struggles. Instead, we still have plenty to do in just trying to further redeem ourselves. It's our personal existence that needs a big face-lift. Uranus seeks to transform our approach to living a boldly authentic life, free of the illusions and the hypocrisies of our past. The good news is that such a stifling past may be gone forever. Amen.

URANUS TRANSITING THE NINTH HOUSE

STRANGE SAFARI

Transiting Uranus entering the Ninth House is so glad to be free from the complications of the sticky Eighth that, as rumor has it, it's designing a rocket ship to take it straight to Jupiter! That's right, Uranus now has travel fever and wants to get far, far away from the scene of the grime (uninspired, survival-oriented existence). If we have dislodged and freed potent underground parts of our nature when Uranus was passing through the Eighth, we probably are ready to allow ourselves to reach out for more gusto in life and sweet "soul" adventure in a positive, open-handed manner. If so, the Ninth House makes the perfect next stop-over for hearty Uranus. There's plenty of room for at least mental, if not geographical, exploration in this **area—thus** satisfying Uranus' yen to wander down a few less-traveled roads of learning, paths than can seem weird to less mentally fearless types.

FREE THINKER

This is a house where we develop expansive beliefs about society and about even the Cosmos itself. Here we formulate our concept

of God and of Universal Law. Once we are exposed to a thought system that inspires us, we often pump it up with the power of our faith and trust. This helps us to construct a sense of meaning about life, whether on spiritual (religion), intellectual (philosophy), or societal terms (politics). However, a potential problem with this approach is that some of us then want to spread such beliefs far and wide in order to reach the greatest amount of people, those whom we hope will reaffirm our beliefs. They, in turn, enthusiastically distribute these thought systems and, before you know it, a simple belief turns into a social movement. Some social movements become solidified and well-assimilated by the collective mind. What if the original belief is based on a completely false premise? What if those who redistribute the message embellish the content or add their own biases or misassumptions? These are some human possibilities that fire up transiting Uranus. We find ourselves eager to search for what is real versus what is societally endorsed propaganda.

Transiting Uranus gives us a lot of room to question big, social issues, because everything about the Ninth pushes for broader understanding—although sometimes widespread misunderstandings can also result. Neither facts nor rumors are contained within small, discreet circles in the Ninth—they disperse like wildfire, and become instant topics of global interest (especially in today's cyberworld of online data surfing). Uranus is fascinated with the media's potential to pollinate fresh ideas of futuristic promise. Convincing the Establishment that such ideas are worthy of respectful consideration becomes a problem for sometimes off-the-wall-sounding Uranus. Of course, this would be more of a problem for us if we were born with Uranus in our Ninth: our visions *throughout our lifetime* then become challenged or are subjected to ridicule for being "too far out." However, with the relatively short-term transit of Uranus, we are much too busy looking at life from excitingly different angles to worry about how others will cope with our large-scale views later. All that we know now is that conforming to standard ways of thinking and conceptualizing is unappealing to us.

OPEN WIDE

We begin to reconsider things on a broader basis in the hope of uncovering the real scoop behind all that we intellectually pursue (our vigorous Eighth House workout took us on a stimulating archaeological dig for hidden truths, and now we don't want to stop). Our quest is to reap meaningful rewards that help to open our eyes. Uranus enjoys truth-finding missions, so this transit gives us an opportunity to question everything that we currently believe to be true or right. This can, however, trigger disillusionment, as a few long-held, but unexamined, beliefs become shattered in light of new (shocking?) revelations.

This is nothing to worry **about**—it's just Uranus' way of opening up uncharted territory for us. We've probably been discontented with a few of our "cherished" beliefs and "unquestioned" assumptions for a while anyway, but couldn't fathom what would take their place if we ever let them go (and thus risk feeling an empty void inside). This is typically the case with religious and political beliefs. Uranus is now speeding up our mind's evolution. Refreshing concepts of a progressive nature will be available to excite us by arousing our sense of wonder. Uranus is a vision-awakener. The world can look bigger and brighter to us when we switch to a wide-angled, perceptual lens. Even our concept of God and the Cosmos can expand and become more exhilarating and unlimited.

MINDSWEEPING

What we probably won't be able to hang on to after this transit is over are rigidity, narrow-mindedness, programmed social prejudices, and subjective intellectual biases. None of these fit into Uranus' future-oriented vision for us; they all must go. Let's hope that we experience a few Uranian trines and sextiles to our natal planets during this period that could help make this planet's house assignment more pleasurable. These transits heighten our excitement about learning better ways to view the puzzle of existence without the tensional edginess more common of Uranus in

conflict patterns. It becomes a thrill to dump the old and welcome the new, at least intellectually. We can play with concepts that amaze and delight us. However, the key is to initially make this an experimental phase, where we tentatively put our faith into such ideas and ideals. Let's have fun growing mentally without feeling obligated to faithfully adhere to any system of thought. We'll also need to be careful not to get entangled with any beliefs that demand a heavy dose of reverential treatment. Uranus is not much of a devout worshipper.

It's also best not to suddenly embrace any ideology too fervently or fanatically (as a square or an opposition from transiting Uranus might tempt us to do), at least not until we have tried these new concepts for a while to see if they truly fit us. Remember, Ninth-House energy makes us want to get on our soap-box and indiscriminately preach to the unenlightened whatever our revelations have "revealed" to us. However, this is not a reliable time for firm convictions, because we are still in a state of intellectual and spiritual flux. Nothing is to be made concrete or written on stone tablets until after our minds have returned home from their fantastic journeys far and **wide**—*if* we ever do come back home to familiar territory. It's probably safe to say that our world-view will be quite altered by the time Uranus is ready to transit our Tenth House. By then we will need to actualize some of the broader social and spiritual visions that have inspired us in our Ninth.

ONE STEP BEYOND

This is a house where the expansion of consciousness is encouraged. Here we begin to realize that reality is more mind-based than is commonly recognized by materialistic science. Already highly intuitive and eager to do something to prove it, Uranus will bring us experiences that show what it's like to go beyond normal brain-wave activity and to activate the mind's less frequently tapped levels of awareness. Such awareness is not mystical in tone (that's Neptune), nor does it arouse us deeply on an

intensely emotional level (unlike Pluto). We simply are more apt to have sudden insights, quick overviews of situations, and even a dash of prophecy to help us light our future's path. All of it proves to be very exciting and stimulating stuff for us when it's happening. We are also highly alert and conscious when we are so tuned in, rather than in any kind of dreamy trance state.

I associate Uranus with telepathy (which is really a form of amazingly rapid **communication**—the psyche's souped-up version of e-mail). We might find ourselves picking up on the thoughts of others far away more often than we realize (that's when little impromptu dialogues with such folks suddenly pop into our heads, usually interrupting whatever else we were doing). Then they call us the next day or send us a **letter**—**surprise!**—**saying** that we were recently in *their* thoughts, too. Pay closer attention to this (and realize that transiting Uranus contacting our natal Mercury, Moon, or Jupiter may provide similar phenomena).

In general, taking classes in ESP and similar phenomena might be stimulating and educational, but it makes no sense to try to rush our inner development, or attempt to force the emergence of paranormal talents we may not even really have (wait for a strong, hard-angled Neptune transit to indulge in that kind of **self-delusion**—at least by then it will *feel* more real). Uranus is a planet that likes things to be **spontaneous**—it'll only repeat experiences sporadically, if at all. Thus, sometimes we'll feel so plugged in to the Cosmos we almost can't stand it, while at other times it may appear that even our pet iguana is more gifted with psychic awareness! Why does our hot intuitive streak come and go like this? Maybe it's because we also need to be appropriately grounded to get through the mundane business of functioning in the everyday world; therefore, life every so often demands that we snap out of it and stop cruising the "higher realms." However, in short spurts, Uranus comes in handy when we need a little extra intuitive *oomph* to help speed along our daily tasks. It's best to let this energy come and go naturally, without trying to manipulate the process.

JET STREAM

In the Ninth, we can circumnavigate the globe and stop at many exotic ports of call, if we had the money and plenty of leisure time to travel abroad. This is not realistic for most of us, who can't even fit in a free weekend to drive to the mountains. Still, thoughts of international touring may come and go more than usual during this transit. The Ninth preaches "mind over matter"; perhaps we should first indulge in visualizing those special locations where we'd love to spend some quality time. Those born with Uranus in the Ninth probably already do this a **lot—and** probably end up getting out of town every so often, just before their pent-up Uranian energies become problematic (and before their mini-van's battery blows).

Anyway, we may find that vivid images of a faraway place suddenly coming to us in a flash, or perhaps we unexpectedly run into fascinating people who have lived in or have recently visited the destination of our dreams. We may not know why we have such an insistent desire to explore this area, but the urge is strong. If the current travel trend is to summer in balmy and beautiful Acapulco, we'd rather explore the volcanoes of Iceland! Our tendency is to pick those oddball places less glamorized by travel agencies and TV ads. And so, no, we probably *won't* be coming back to Jamaica this year. It's the Galapagos Islands for us and the thrill of kissing a giant tortoise (besides, there are a few active volcanoes there, too, and an unexpectedly varied climate).

If we do get to fly away to our ideal spot, we may have little interest in playing the well-behaved tourist who gets off and on the chartered bus with a structured group. We probably don't even want to be around familiar crowds, but instead are itching to go off the beaten path. However, we'll need to examine our transiting aspects before we globe-trot with the idea that "silly little rules" apply to others, not **us—or** that certain social customs only pertain to the natives, while we're gonna do what we want on our **once-in-a-lifetime** vacation, dammit! Uranus will quickly show us that too much willfulness and defiance can backfire on us when we flaunt our free style and disturb the locals or those who

enforce the law. It's best to avoid mingling with cultures known for their rigid, archaic social values or dress code. We could, of course, simply play by the rules and make no waves. The bottom line is: don't expect everyone else to become instantly Uranian and liberal-minded just because we've breezed into town and want to have a good time.

Actually, there is a great likelihood that we will meet very progressive people, living at the place we visit, who don't seem to fit the social norm. They're considered unusual and even eccentric in some way. Our rapport with these folks can be uncanny and electric, a case of instant friendship. Uranus exposes us to what's different, but it also makes sure that exotic birds of rare plumage and song find each other. We probably will never look at "foreigners" the same way again because of this enlightening transit. We'll be less threatened by what at first appears culturally alien to us and others. Exposure to ethnic differences becomes a cool thing to experience, and very educational on a soul level.

UNIVERSAL CITIZEN

Before this transit is over, assuming we've handled it well, we could feel that we have much more tolerance for humankind's diversity than ever before. We intuit the higher purpose of collective variety as expressed through a wide range of social customs, religions, or general lifestyles. We are truly citizens of the world at this point, comfortable wherever we go and eager to learn about life from our travels. Global progress becomes exciting to us, especially along lines of constructive technology or of humane enterprise. We can adopt a "live and let live" policy, knowing that there's plenty of room for colorful individualists and conservatives alike. Uranus can play the role of freedom fighter for the oppressed; therefore, this transit can stir up strong political passions, and a determination to improve the social status of underdogs in society. However, it's best not to resort to lawless ways to shatter old regimes and to enforce overnight reform by using **violence—which**, unfortunately, is something that detached Uranus can ideologically justify, at times, as essential to fulfilling the

greater cause at hand. It's best to first find educational ways to uplift the social consciousness of others.

URANUS/JUPITER TRANSITS

SHOOT FOR THE STARS

Did you know that mythological Uranus was Jupiter's grandpa? It's not too clear if they ever had any real family contact. Astrologically, however, Uranus and Jupiter share a lot in common. Uranus is a fiery kind of air planet, while Jupiter's an airy sort of fire planet. Both can get charged up with excitement, both think that being small-minded is a big waste of time, and both need lots of elbow room to explore life's greater potential. Also, each is key to how we face an unknown but hopefully promising future. Will any risk-taking or "going out on a limb" be involved? Almost certainly. Will we have to reevaluate elements of our past in light of new revelations? You bet.

When transiting Uranus aspects our natal Jupiter, the doors of perception may fling wide open for us. The future beckons and our aspirations may run high. We may feel unstoppable when it comes to reaching our goals, but not because we're human bulldozers plowing through all obstacles in our path. Instead, we may feel as though the angels are on our side, and the Cosmos is giving us a thumbs up! What we actually get out of this transit depends on what we are willing to freely give to the world. Jupiter connects us to our inner goodness, while Uranus makes truths about our ideal self known. Selfishness and greed won't help us to tap into the best this combo has to offer. However, feelings of altruism are well-supported. Although this is not a highly empathetic mixture (that's Neptune/Jupiter), it does trigger a generosity of spirit (typical of Jupiter), which often manifests as social activism. Uranus and Jupiter want to better the human condition. Both planets are advocates of societal enlightenment. Their understanding of human potential can be vast.

Do WE DARE?

Each planet is able to have far-sighted visions about tomorrow. We may feel a heightened degree of anticipation, sensing that something big may just be around the corner for us, some lucky break or something that might at least relieve the boring monotony of our daily grind. We hope that it's not just a temporary kind of relief, but one that ushers in a whole new world of exciting opportunity. Is the transit in question a square, a quincunx, or opposition? If so, be warned that self-discipline and common sense are two traits that we currently may lack as we attempt to apply this buoyant and high-spirited energy. However, sometimes the daring that we show is necessary to improve our life or the lives of others dramatically. While Saturnian attitudes could get us to carefully weigh the pros and cons of adventuresome action, we might end up taking no chances or making no great leaps of faith. This Uranus transit is not about playing it safe.

SPECIAL TREATMENT

Successful Uranus activity often demands bright but gutsy solutions, including a high degree of alertness and a cool-headed cerebral **approach—nothing** too zany or impractical, but nothing that's going to drag its heels, either. That's because Uranus lacks endurance, and simply won't want to wait around for results, while Jupiter could also lose steam when put on hold for too long (say goodbye to enthusiasm). With Jupiter we must fully believe in ourselves and those we draw into **our** personal circle in order to end up on the winning side of any project. We must have faith in a benevolent Universe that is willing to give us special privileges and to treat us very well at this time. Any hidden feelings of unworthiness must be routed out before we can ride the full wave of this transit.

The transiting conjunction, sextile, or trine may lack the extra push for sweeping change seen with more tensional aspects. We may be less driven to explore our future potential; we're satisfied with those more immediate comforts suddenly presented to us.

Nevertheless, we may find ourselves feeling in sync with the Cosmos at this time and thus willing to make a few personal dreams come true. Our hopefulness may be as strong as our positive thinking. Our optimistic faith can turn parts of our life around, very quickly, for the better. If we're not setting our sights unrealistically high (which is often a problem for the hard-angled aspects), our vision can be made workable. Success is more likely, and arriving at that level of success proves less disruptive to our overall lifestyle. The only **problem—considering** the know-it-all quality of a mismanaged Uranus and the arrogance of a mishandled **Jupiter**—is that we could convince ourselves that we are God's "chosen one" who's here to usher in some big social change without anyone else daring to question the lightness of our assertive actions or the practicality of our vision itself.

MILLION DOLLAR WINNER?

Sudden windfalls are often associated with Uranus/Jupiter transits. However, before we run out and wildly buy fistfuls of lottery tickets or bingo cards, realize that our windfall doesn't have to be of the monetary or material kind. Sorry, Leo and Sagittarius, but this transit is no sure-fire ticket to living the sweet life on Easy Street! What *can* pour down on us in abundance is an inner enrichment provided by gaining the inspiration needed to live a fuller and more spiritually uplifting life, as well as arriving at a broader understanding of this complex world. Look at your chart and then look at yourself in the mirror and ask if that sounds like an even greater reward to have bestowed on you. Some would empathetically say "yes!" while others might just reluctantly nod (while thinking, "Ah, but vast sums of money would be really nice right about now.")

It takes all types to make up a interesting world, so we shouldn't feel shallow or guilt-ridden if we do indeed win a major sweepstake. Uranus/Jupiter teaches us the wisdom of tolerance. Maybe we can do big things for our community after we win that forty million dollars—who says we'd be greedy with our big bucks? This could also be an "easy come, easy go" transit for

those who win great sums of money but who haven't been blessed with common sense. Uranus doesn't tolerate idiots very well, so the cash flow can suddenly dry up after a whirlwind of insane over-spending! My point is that not everyone during this transit feels compelled to make this a transpersonal experience; maybe that's not even our greatest need at the moment. So be it. It's okay for us to keep going to the race track and betting on our favorite horses! After all, the ability to magnetize great, financial abundance out of thin air is still an awesome act of spiritual power to behold!

BIG ITCH

What if some of us have no great dreams or goals to shoot for? What could be the downside of these aspects? Well, for one thing, there's an agitating restlessness that is not going to be easily satisfied with the routines of everyday living. How boring such routines are to both planets. With no broader horizons to capture our enthusiasm, aimlessness may result. We feel an inner discontent with the status quo of our lives, but may opt for quick relief in any activity that offers short-term excitement or novelty. This is nothing to get too concerned about if a trine or sextile is involved. We could take a weekend trip to Las Vegas, and try to get some of it out of our system. Yet with the square or the opposition, we could go overboard playing slot machines or roulette wheels and end up blowing a lot of our hard-earned money, because we usually are not on that hot, winning streak that we prayed for the previous night.

If we indulge ourselves in grand Jupiter fashion, we tend to do so erratically, either because of unexpected circumstantial detours or because we find it less fulfilling (there's too much focus on the level of earthly desires to satisfy Uranus). **Uranus/Jupiter** would rather that we aim our sights higher and wider. It is an especially important time to be careful not to add to our credit card debts. Again, self-discipline and common sense are not our strong points at the moment. We hunger for more out of life. Yet if we make this simply a quest to fulfill worldly appetites, we'll

become manic about purchasing "toys" that we really don't need, and may end up with a whopping bill that we really can't afford to pay, at least not without disrupting our material stability. The thrills and spills of the inner freedom we seek can get expensive. A reckless attitude only compounds our problems.

TRAVELMANIA

It is typical for us to flirt with travel plans as we seek to get away from our mundane environment. The urge to get out of town can hit us quickly. We have an appetite for more exotic locales (such wanderlust is further emphasized with strong mutable or cardinal placements, but less so with fixed signs, except for Aquarius). It's going to be a judgment call whether we should buy that round-trip ticket to Tahiti or simply subscribe to *The Travel Channel* on cable and to *National Geographic*. What does our budget realistically allow? Of course, Jupiter seldom cares to think about budgeting, and particularly so at this highly impulsive and self-rewarding time. The temptation is to pay more for the opportunity to take a quick, spontaneous trip.

There are travel clubs where the members fly off on weekend trips to unknown destinations. The surprise factor of these mystery sojourns would be very appealing to Uranus, with the added attraction of having to be ready for anything at a moment's notice. This might be worth looking into if Uranus is trine or sextile our Jupiter, and most so if either one of them rules the Ninth (or the Third) House. However, if the rest of our chart is loaded with Taurus and Cancer placements, we'd likely want to prepare for any voyage we undertake. We'll need to also know that the place we're going to has most of the comforts of home, which leaves out that surprise, free trip to Mongolia!

This is, at the very least, a good transit for getting out of the house more often. The great outdoors is often where Jupiter feels most at home. Transiting Uranus is now hinting that our extended surroundings have a few surprising features that could excite and delight us, if we'd only enthuse ourselves to wander around a bit and take in the scenery. The key here is learning to

follow **our** spontaneous impulse to head out the door. With Jupiter aspects, walking, hiking, and generally stretching one's body muscles are to be encouraged. This is a planet that enjoys living a robust life. While Uranus isn't into vigorous physicality as such, it can still pump up our body system with electrical energy that keeps us pleasantly on the go and eagerly active.

If nature calls us to come out and play for a spell, let's allow ourselves to have a few, fun get-away weekends. Just keep the dang beeper and darn cell phone at home! Much of what can make these trips exciting is not being fully prepared for them (although this could prove to be dangerous when we're exploring high-risk environments). If they can help it, Uranus and Jupiter really don't want to invite Saturn along for the ride, knowing that hell bring his long list of "shoulds" and "should nots" with **him**—and he won't prefer a worn-out sleeping bag over a reasonably priced, safe-looking motel! So leave Saturn at home defrosting the refrigerator, and let's be as carefree as we can be having a **smashingly** good time.

THE THIRD DEGREE?

If we could find the time to squeeze it in, these aspects would be great for going back to school in some manner, even if we already have a master's in sociology or whatever. Our mind is eager to be fed new information. Maybe weekend seminars and workshops will do the trick, or even adult educational classes at night. Can some of us reasonably juggle the details of our life and still work toward yet another academic degree (our mid-life crisis)? If so, we'd better also check our Saturn aspects to see if we have support for the stick-to-it-ness required. What we don't need to do right now is to go into a high state of activity overload. However, mental boredom is the kiss of death for some of us during this period. Whatever we choose, opportunities for learning something of value abound. We just need to pick our topics of study wisely, especially if our education is going to be costly. Uranus and Jupiter typically don't consider the practical elements of such stimulating endeavors before taking the big plunge.

In fact, Jupiter always thinks it can handle more than it really can; it promises what it often can't deliver on time or even at all. Uranus is not the planet to tell Jupiter to be cautious and to slow down its pace, because Uranus itself believes in acceleration. Our expectations regarding higher education can be unrealistic. We feel a sense of urgency and assume we have to take as many courses as we can before we talk ourselves out of the whole thing. This is why Saturn has to be a part of this picture if we are to reach our academic goals, rather than just waste time with costly false starts. Why put all this energy into our goal, just to suddenly drop out later?

A FICKLE FATE

Much of the time we are not even in the control seat when it comes to channeling this transit. Although we may try to take over and willfully direct matters, these quickening energies seem to have a life of their own. Maybe that's a blessing, because the Cosmos is thinking in bigger terms regarding our future than we probably are at the moment. The protective Hand of God is on us, helping us to make quick detours to avoid certain unforeseen pitfalls (Neptune/Jupiter can feel like this, too). That's why the road we travel suddenly takes a sharp turn, but in a favorable direction that we'd normally never consider. Any Uranus/Jupiter transit saves us from stagnation, from getting stuck in ancient mud pits of our own chronic inertia. This time, Jupiter doesn't get much of a chance to procrastinate. We will take inspired action, even if the results are erratic, or are much too unstructured to last. When fate's fickle finger points the way, we can follow a new path both somewhat innocently and somewhat knowingly. It's an odd state to be in, but one that helps us optimistically move forward toward life's next exciting chapter.

Meanwhile, we only benefit in growth by "keeping the faith," and by realizing that life doesn't always have to be a case of uphill climbing. If we truly awaken to new levels of Jupiter consciousness, we'll know it by how much warmer and friendlier we

feel toward the world. We are less uptight around strangers. Children with this transit, however, will need to be careful. Our disposition can seem more cheery, especially when nobody's trying to steer us away from our current interests. We are enthusiastically alive and **well—but** maybe getting a little fatter. Even such body fat can be quickly burned off with the right amount of involvement in healthy social activity, plus some vigorous leg-kicking, hip-swinging exercises.

URANUS TRANSITING THE TENTH HOUSE

REINVENTING THE ROLE

Transiting Uranus entering the Tenth House marks a time of identity crisis, but one that's different than what we are likely to experience when this planet crosses our First House. In the Tenth, our role as a responsible participant in society is highlighted; therefore, the professional image we create usually becomes our main focus. Assuming that we are law-abiding citizens, who take a constructive approach to career endeavors and know the limits of our ambition, our status in the eyes of the world is ready to undergo a change for the better. In some cases, even a complete overhaul is possible if we have not already found reasonable fulfillment in our line of work.

This major reorientation doesn't happen "overnight," except in a few, rare cases. Signs of unrest are evident long before things shake up. Yet Uranus doesn't allow for too much foot-dragging if it's clear that we are miserable with our current professional role in the world. Our circumstances during this transit dare us to try something new, and this often requires we take big chances that won't offer firm guarantees of success.

Our reflections on our inner beliefs and the possibility of expanding ourselves in the bigger world around us when Uranus was transiting the Ninth can now help generate the inspiration and idealism we will need to make new waves in our Tenth House. We need to go against the grain of conventional wisdom, which would soberly warn us to stay put rather than risk losing all that we've worked so hard to achieve. Not rocking the boat is fine if we are already thrilled about our career and its future promise. However, should we be discontented, feeling trapped in repetitive work that offers no creative challenges, Uranus is ready to come up with exciting alternative plans. We could be at a dead-end road in our current job situation. Therefore, recognizing a viable way out of this frustrating condition is vitally important. Whatever the case, we are less willing to obediently function day-by-day in the nine-to-five world the way society expects us to.

DRIVER'S SEAT

Much depends on how gutsy and willing we are to take certain career risks. The new changes in store are not always going to be smooth for us or psychologically painless. In fact, they may put us in contact with deeper **insecurities**—as Uranus opposes our vulnerable **Nadir**—regarding the possible lack of reliable safety nets, economically speaking. This is especially so if we feel a compelling urge to completely strike out on our own in some fashion. Uranus is probably the patron god of the career **freelancer**. We begin to toy with the idea that we need a working situation where we can operate independently from authoritative rules and regulations. We would prefer to create our own policies and procedures, rather than cater to any boss or impersonal corporate power structure. We seek to work when *we* want to, at hours or on days that *we* choose. It all sounds like a nice set-up, if we can get it.

If **self-employment** is truly in our future, our current attitudes and our sense of timing will determine whether we get to bow out from a long-held professional position gracefully (often surprising others when we make our exit), or whether we instead get booted

out of a stable job due to our insubordination, rebelliousness, rule-breaking behavior, or spotty work performance. Maybe we give off a different vibe to those in key positions that they find threatening or alienating. We'll need to be conscious of and honest about the career we are in and where it's going. What facets of this career do we have a hard time tolerating? Where do we feel **straitjacketed** or stifled in expression? Does this career go against our inner ideals? Do we sense we could do better elsewhere if given the chance? Well, guess what, we *are* going to be given the chance! Our periodic thoughts of escaping from our present predicament hold more power to recreate our professional future than we realize. Action follows thought; therefore, we need to see where such musing leads us.

WALKING PAPERS

If we can no longer stand what we do for a living or how we are doing it, but nevertheless adopt a passive, self-avoidance approach, Uranus becomes especially geared up to give us its famous zap (without the benefit of any "flash" of insight first). Things can suddenly fall **apart—perhaps** we walk into our place of employment one morning to find out we've been terminated because our company unexpectedly is in a major restructuring cycle. It's nothing personal, they tell us, because a lot of others are getting dumped, too! It's just a board or an upper management decision made after much research into the matter. We've been downsized out of our position, and suddenly our dreams for the future have been shattered. Oddly enough, we may feel stunned and relieved at the same time. We're stunned because of the shocking quickness of it all, yet we're also relieved because we realize we weren't happy anyway, but didn't know if or when we should start looking elsewhere for work. The Universe therefore draws that Uranian wild card out of fate's deck, and suddenly one morning we find our desk is to be cleared by noon. Our dismissal by the company can feel cold and impersonal.

Sometimes our job is still there for us, but it's our employer who has either unexpectedly quit or has been replaced (usually

due to personality clashes or "creative" differences). He or she has become a manifest symbol of the Uranian unrest building inside us. This in turn can make us feel shaky and **disoriented—unless** we hate our boss. Then we feel elated and excited at the prospect of finally having someone new in charge of operations. Yet I've had clients with this transit tell me that their new employer is just as disruptive or as temperamentally difficult, only in a different manner. Still, they're a **pain-and-a-half** to deal with. It's at this point that we start to feel restless and at odds with ourselves. Knowing our chart and zeroing in on this particular transit, we can suspect that, in due time, we will also be zapped hard by Uranus if we stall and do nothing about our situation. The calm, "pretend nothing's happening and it may go away" approach doesn't work when this planet's ready to roll.

BREAK-OUT TIME

The part of us that has usually listened to our Saturnian practicality in the past (sometimes out of guilt and fear) now finds itself pitted against that less-heard inner voice of self-willed defiance that urges us to take this job and shove it! If it's a bona fide career at **stake—not** just a transitional stage but something that once felt like a true calling to us until **now—we** may need to let go of the honor and prestige that came along with our title (as well as the reputation and name we made for ourselves). Uranus is giving us a special opportunity to be free of the trappings of our status. We can break away from the pack and do something that is highly individualistic. However, with such Uranian-triggered individualism can come a bit of controversy (although perhaps this is more of an issue for public figures who are highly scrutinized by the media).

The transiting trine or sextile helps to make this transition more adventurous than nail-biting, because we are unwittingly led to many unfamiliar doors that unexpectedly open for us (as long as we already are on a conscious path of unfoldment). People enter the picture, maybe briefly, just to get us revved up about whatever the next step of our career's path is to be. As they

quickly leave the scene, others may take their place. Let's hope that they offer us astute advice. Things can feel very lively and electric for us during this time, although not necessarily stable. The transiting opposition sometimes works this way, too.

However, with the tensional patterns (for example, Uranus in the Tenth square the Sun or Moon), we still may be driving down the right road in life, although the road now seems a bit rockier and the street lights are screwed up. We could feel unsteady or inwardly uncertain about taking any direct course of action (with no reliable road map to guide us). One day we flash on the overview of our life and the future looks bright. The next day we feel as if nobody's behind the wheel of this speeding car and that a big bad crash is imminent. Actually, this is probably our typical response to Uranian energy in the beginning. Unless we ignore too many red lights and stop signs along the way, we just need to carry on with our vision while we endure the momentary ups and downs. Uranus makes fate's workings seem fascinating but forever unpredictable.

YEARS OF WONDER

During this transit, we don't have to quit our job to discover our inner potential, nor do we have to unconsciously behave in ways that get us fired (thus liberating us from a stifling, going-nowhere career). However, we'll need exciting new roles to play, if our career allows for it. We cannot afford to grow stale, bitter, or become "bored to extinction!" (to quote an old, Uranian college music professor of mine). Life is telling us to experiment with different avenues of opportunity to see what develops. We could connect with dormant or underused talents and skills that may result in remarkable achievements we never thought possible. Uranus is not called the "Great Awakener" for nothing. The cosmic alarm clock is ringing, so it's time to stop sleeping on our potential. If we are on the right track (and good luck in the beginning figuring that out!), amazing things can happen that rocket us to some kind of stardom, even if we're not in the entertainment business. Instant celebrity can be ours, usually because a few of

us present the public with something novel or **earth-shatteringly** important. To get this far, we probably had to pay a few Saturn dues while struggling behind-the-scenes in relative obscurity. Now it can be pay-off time for our efforts.

It's apparent that not each of us will explode into the lime-light, nor would some of us even want to. However, if we've been sitting on our genius potential all of these years, wondering if the world will ever notice us and the special things that we could contribute, **now's** the time to let our talents shine. Stress aspects during this transit simply suggest that we should slow down and be less obstinate about how individualistically we're trying to make our mark. It's important to meaningfully awaken people to greater realities, not shock them senseless. If we're flamboyant and reckless enough, we could stir fiery controversy, outraging conservative social watchdogs who wield enough power to get us in trouble. In olden days, they would have gathered kindling for dangerous "social misfits" like **us—unrepentant** Uranians were always easy targets for persecution and execution. In today's world, we won't be burned at the stake for being weird, but our credibility can nevertheless go up in flames if we become too defiant and **alienating—and** this *can* happen overnight!

UPROOTED

This is another two-for-one transit, because Uranus crossing our Midheaven also opposes our Nadir and any natal planets in our Fourth House. What we subconsciously identify as our true, subjective source of personal security (symbolized by our Nadir) can seemingly be under attack at this time, as Uranus teaches us how to let go of our dependencies or at least become more objective in our dealings with them. "Who still needs security blankets that should have been outgrown by now?" asks Uranus. At the beginning of this transit, we certainly can feel as if our self-protective instincts don't want to go where our flashes of intuition are taking us. The lure of the unknown clashes with the comfort of the familiar. Often, whatever happens in our career zone impacts our family life on some level (a typical Fourth-Tenth House dynamic

even if Uranus is not involved). Some of the more interesting Uranian opportunities for career advancement at this time may require relocation to a completely different environment. If we're the type who devotedly cling to our roots (born and raised in Brooklyn perhaps?) this becomes a huge dilemma.

Transplanting ourselves only works if we're sincerely ready to try out different domestic lifestyles. **Our** Nadir-consciousness is given a special chance to expand its ability to be at home with new experiences, ones that can turn out refreshingly nurturing. It helps if we realize that we'll never have the future of our dreams if we stubbornly live in the past. It can't be done. Besides, Uranus hates carrying old emotional baggage needlessly. Sometimes an impulsive career move can turn out to be disastrous, if we have fixed expectations of what's to come. Stubborn types usually suffer under pivotal Uranus transits, while those who can bend and flex make the most out of their situations. Still, it's good to know how we feel about security before quickly uprooting ourselves. In addition, Uranian career opportunities are not known for longevity. They can, however, become springboards to even greater success in different professional areas. It takes a spirit of adventure and a lot of guts to willingly explore where this unusual path leads us.

LETTING DAD GO

Both the Tenth and the Fourth Houses involve parental themes. How we perceive our father is usually a Tenth House issue (at least for American astrologers). Uranus is pushing for the breakdown of power over behavior that all authority symbols have or have had, including those in our family. Maybe there is now needed a healthy distance between us and our father, if we have felt restricted by him in the past. Perhaps a surprising **break-through** awaits us regarding what may have already been a shaky or strained parent-child relationship. We could be unexpectedly challenged to let go of any former negative images of and feelings about our dad in favor of turning over a new leaf. Perhaps all that we want and need right now is to be validated by him as the individualistic person we know ourselves to be.

For a few of us, Uranus might mean, depending on our age and that of our dad, that our time with this parent is limited. Uranus is a "here today, gone tomorrow" planet; therefore, we don't have forever to work out our differences with our father. It behooves us to resolve any long-standing feuds or resentments while he's still around. He may not actually die anytime soon, but he could become inaccessible to us in other ways. We need to have our long-overdue dialogues in an attempt to work out our differences (knowing that any Uranian insight into his personality patterns helps us to see and understand this relationship in a different light). In some cases, Uranus in the Tenth could suggest that it's our father who's ready to adopt a better outlook on old, troublesome matters that have created tension for both of us. He could now be the one eager to address former misunderstandings. It's good to take advantage of this galvanizing Uranian period and finally clear the air of all stored-up grievances, which allows a healing process to begin. Tomorrow could be a brand new day for both of us.

URANUS/SATURN TRANSITS

SMELL THE FREEDOM

Natal Saturn suggests where great resistance to change can be found. This planet is a key to our long-standing inhibitions, doubts, and fears. Uranus transiting our Saturn will provoke us to release parts of ourselves that have been kept in check for whatever reason. At this time, Uranus will not support further suppression of our higher potential, and it doesn't even care if it has to meet a hard-nosed pragmatist like Saturn to make its point. We are now to liberate our capacity to be confidently individualistic. However, until Saturn permits itself to wake up and smell the freedom in the air, Uranus' energy creates an inner tension that can be explosive (especially when its drives are thwarted by continual Saturnian rigidity). However, that's usually only in those instances where we are too set in our ways to allow for real growth. Uranus has no choice then but to blast away.

It's not Uranus' intent to attack and destroy Saturn (although **mythologically**, Saturn did castrate and thus devitalize his daddy Uranus). Uranus needs Saturn in order to manifest itself in less abstract terms. Saturn translates Uranus' energy, converting it into more socially understandable forms and thereby making this outer planet less bizarre and alienating. Idealistic concepts, therefore, become shaped in ways the world can work with. Saturn also helps step down Uranus' high-voltage expression so that it becomes more accommodating and less overwhelming to others. Uranus will better materialize its intent by using Saturn's talent for structuring **form—except** that Uranus is not interested in putting its electrifying power into the same, old structures (especially those that have outlived their purpose or are much too short-sighted to keep pace with future growth). Uranus seeks to reform whatever Saturn has previously constructed. We'll probably want to keep those elements **of** structure that are not blocking our growth, but the rest we are prompted to eliminate swiftly.

BENDING THE RULES

What have we built for ourselves in life using our natal Saturn thus far? We need to look at this planet's house position to determine if our structures are sound but flexible enough to invite improvement. Can we bend here and yield to progress when life ushers in new and stimulating alternatives? Or do we distrust ever deviating from the norms determined by our society or even by **our** inner parameters? Often, with Saturn, we have shaped our life according to the dictates of outer authorities (even in minor issues of dress and appearance). Our obedience to standard rules of conduct and behavior may make us look like exemplary citizens, but are we too robotic in our pursuit of safer avenues of expression? Have we conformed in ways that have silenced the free-spirited voice of our idealistic youth?

If so, Uranus will have none of this. As the trigger planet in this temporary but potent relationship, it is the one to call the **shots** and determine the agenda. After all, Uranus has already determined this to be the time in our life to make its presence

known. It's ready to stir up a little of that unstructured energy that always makes natal Saturn initially insecure, even though Saturn needs the kind of attitude adjustment that only Uranus can stimulate. We don't necessarily have to make a radical shift in our lives (the triggered natal planet does have a say in the final outcomes of any transit). Saturn certainly doesn't favor anything too disruptive, but there need to be a few areas where we risk becoming less habitual in our response.

A SUDDEN AMBITION

If we are undergoing a transiting sextile or a trine, Uranus appears to be less of a threat to Saturn's status quo, while Saturn seems less inflexible and vision-deprived to Uranus. A workable alliance can be forged with a little effort and a willingness to experience contrasting drives. This usually manifests as fresh options entering our life that energize whatever we have already effectively stabilized, especially in the area of professional matters or in other major responsibilities undertaken. We are able to retain the form we have worked so hard to create, but now we can add a few ingenious enhancements that can really help things take off fast! Sudden spurts of ambition are also likely, which drive us to accomplish worthwhile things in relatively short periods of time (especially if our Saturn is in a cardinal sign or already forms a natal aspect to our Uranus or Mars). One key to our success is knowing just how far to go with these Uranian energies, which means recognizing the limits of unconventional and somewhat chancy routes in a world that has already set up established procedures. Equally important will be to know how and when to move beyond those limits that fear and self-doubt have created. Uranus demands that we take new risks, and to do so means mustering up the courage to move into the unknown.

What about those other, more frictional aspects? The square, quincunx, opposition, and even the powerful conjunction all suggest a problem with balanced Uranus/Saturn expression. Uranus, when denied its proper outlets, can arouse elements in the environment that operate with greater urgency and **forcefulness**—abruptly so, giving us unwelcome surprises. Intensity builds to

uncomfortable levels, and we feel as though life is unfairly throwing us too many curves. Maybe some of us are too driven in our ambition to make a clean break with the past and defiantly forge a new future. Saturnian prudence may go out the window if Uranus takes over completely. That includes the seasoned wisdom that warns us never to burn our bridges behind us professionally. We need to stay in good standing with career people from our past, because they may play a unforeseen role in our advancement in the future (this is advice that even shrewd Capricorn would offer). In other words, we mustn't use this Uranian energy to unduly aggravate those in important positions while we're in an overly confident state of rebellion against tradition and authority. Some of us may think we don't need our current professional connections; that is, until some future date when we're stunned to discover that we need them very much indeed! At all times, Saturn must be included in Uranus' game plan if we are to have brighter tomorrows that we can count on to last.

No GUARANTEES

How are *we* contributing to any unsatisfying scenarios we're undergoing? We only add to the discomfort that change sometimes brings by feeling too scared to take action, as if almost paralyzed by Saturnian fears of failure. No one can be given firm guarantees of secure outcomes with Uranus involved. Besides, that would make things too **easy—where's** the rapid, inner growth based on *taking risks* that Uranus wants to promote, if we know beforehand that no risks will be involved? How experimental can things be, if we already know the outcome ahead of time? No siree, all of this goes against the principles of Uranus. We'll therefore have to struggle with our nagging, inner uncertainties as we quickly react to out-of-**the-ordinary** challenges that suddenly pop up at this time.

This is a good transit to find out just how much of a fuddy-duddy we really are concerning mundane matters of little consequence. Saturnian perfectionism can drive us crazy if we insist on everything being organized just so! Mischievous Uranus will make sure that minor issues that we try to control too much in

life either break down or rebel against us. If we have become an efficiency-freak and are too impatient with life's ability to be messy (because Saturn hates disorder), Uranus will introduce further states of disorganization that suddenly disrupt our busy schedules and may even make some of us come unglued.

If we're too hung up on time, then mischief-making Uranus makes sure that our precious time is wasted in the weirdest of ways. Uranus is not trying to torture Saturn, but it's letting that planet know that unpredictability in life is invaluable, even if Uranian timetables don't seem too trustworthy. Saturn begrudgingly learns to accept that far-sighted Uranus knows what it's talking about. We'll need to get a grip on our anxieties and built-in doubts, especially when minor events are not going according to our set plans and expectations. Virgo needs to hear this, too, because it also can be thrown for a loop when life takes detours, and when "perfect" plans change without warning.

A CLASH OF WILLS

Tensional Uranus/Saturn transits are not great times to pick a fight with the boss, become defiant on the job, challenge traditional policies, or rebel against authority in its various forms, even though that is exactly where these transits are eventually leading us—to the overthrow of existing control-structures that limit us. Certain, long-time inner blockages will have to be removed so that Uranus can breathe new life into our soul. However, with the frictional square or opposition, how we attempt to liberate ourselves can be uneven, choppy, agitating, and offensive to the powers that be (or maybe that's how we view others operating in the control seat). A confrontational battle of wills is possible. With Saturn involved, stalemates sometimes result, aggravating inner pressures already felt. When the energy finally breaks loose—and it will—we find that civil compromises may no longer be feasible. Uranus ultimately wins out, even when the results are destructive. Change will occur in swift and direct terms.

If we have not cooperated or remained adaptable throughout this process of change, unambiguous alterations are imposed on

us. It's such a paradox to think of freedom-fighting Uranus imposing *anything* on us (implying no conscious choice in the matter), yet it does so at times. Evolutionary development is Uranus' ultimate goal, rather than upholding the values of our self-contained ego. (Saturn is the dutiful, stiff-lipped guardian of our ego-structure.) This is a time to transform ourselves in inventive ways and along different paths of clearer **self-definition**. Why fight this necessary pattern of unfoldment just so we can continue to preserve non-productive "support" systems that no longer offer real support? Both planets want us to see things as they really are, free of illusion. Uranus adds to that the need to become immune to the intimidation tactics of others.

Too ALERT?

Uranus' energy, while enlivening, can be hard on the body if too much raw voltage is coming through. Its electrical surges are unpredictable, upsetting sensitive body rhythms (regulated by both the Moon and Saturn). If Saturn is in any way natively connected to the First or Sixth Houses, or even the Moon, transiting Uranus can interfere with physical stamina. Saturn conserves energy so that it can be used properly when most needed later, with none of it wasted. However, Uranus, in its manic state, can drain energy resources due to overactivity or to our inability to rest properly. Uranus is a very jumpy planet and is no friend of deep sleep. We can feel energized and ready to get out of bed hours before Saturn (and sunrise) says it's time to wake up. It seems Uranus' "great awakenings" can sometimes become a big nuisance.

With Uranus always wanting to be up and about, Saturn's energy reserves can be quickly depleted and its timing mechanism can be thrown off. One result is a strangely wired-up state that masks **fatigue**—we seem vibrant to others but we could actually be suffering nervous exhaustion. We are continuously pushing beyond sensible limits. Especially with the conjunction or the square, we have a hard time unplugging from our mental activity ("off" buttons are ruled by Saturn). Constant Uranian input does not allow for proper Saturnian synthesis, which requires stillness and concentration.

Saturn demands some degree of self-discipline, so we'll need to learn when to stop over-exciting ourselves with physical or intellectual stimulation. Thrill-seeking has its limits, and Saturn will make sure this fact is known to us. If we don't pay attention to the warning signs of tension building up, the results could be explosive as reckless, speeding Uranus crashes into Saturn's brick wall. Accidents can be a big, dramatic way to release tensions. However, why fall down a flight of stairs and break a leg, just to find out the hard way that we simply need to be still for a while? Why willfully push for more action and suffer nervous overload as a result? Why even flirt with triggering temperamental outbursts? We need to find ways to calm down and chill out.

FORCING ISSUES

Any transiting Uranus/Saturn aspect suggests that we may attempt to ignore the the reality that certain situations are immune to our reformative efforts, yet putting our planned changes on hold is unappealing. Refusing to wait for a better time to act on our ideals, some of us instead try to urgently to move forward with surprising force. Transiting Uranus trine Saturn poses few problems for us here, because the environment also is ready for a little restructuring. This aspect can place people in our path who show us how easily such remodeling can be done. Even the sextile means that we can alter circumstances once we've thought things out and have come up with several options. In both instances, our circumstances facilitate making smart changes. We're given the green light, with only some degree of caution to observe.

However, with the conjunction, square, opposition, or quincunx, Uranus wants to smash its way through Saturn's barriers. Saturn will staunchly defend its status quo. Both planetary forces thus run the risk of a head-on collision due to mutual inflexibility. If we meet prolonged resistance to our new goals, and weird stumbling blocks suddenly appear to dog our every move, this could be a sign to back off and review our objectives. Again, our timing is thrown off even if our goal is very much on target. The

answer is not to get pushy. Delays happen for sound reasons, and we need to accept this as part of the broader, cosmic plan of our ultimate success. Otherwise, rebellion is carried out without the benefit of the intuitive sense of knowing that more balanced Uranian expression provides. In addition, it's not a good idea to needlessly annoy Saturn, a planet that can penalize us for any unwise use of freedom. Pushing too hard to inflame authorities can result in certain matters blowing up in our face. We are seen as a major source of uncalled-for disruption, and people in power will not wish to help us achieve anything. But they will be glad to call in a security guard or two who then forcefully shows us out the door!

AQUARIAN BUDDIES?

You'll recall that, in the Greek myth, Uranus and Saturn had an adversarial relationship, filled with father-son, high-voltage tensions that culminated in violence. Despite this, the Zodiac has evolved to allow these planets to co-rule truth-finding Aquarius. What makes this fixed, airy sign work well is the teamwork spirit of both these **planets—something** that's easier said than done. Whenever Uranus and Saturn form an aspect, we are challenged to pull their diverse energies together to build new and improved life structures for ourselves and for the world. One planet is not to dominate the other. They work best when we consciously and cooperatively use the energies of each. It's good to keep this in mind. Saturn is willing to work hard to make sure that innovative Uranus inspires us to use its ideas in progressive but useful ways. Uranus is always ready to help Saturn take reality just one step further. Let's use these transits to make these planets the best of friends within us!

URANUS TRANSITING THE ELEVENTH HOUSE

HOME FREE

The Eleventh is already an odd-ball house, in that it is associated with two planets that seem to be very dissimilar: Uranus and Aquarius' old-time ruler, Saturn. A wide range of contradictory behaviors and activities can be found here. This is the house of the non-conformist (Uranus) whose social activism and burning idealism pose a threat to an established community's conventional standards. With strong Eleventh-House emphasis, a few of us can feel like rebellious crusaders on a mission to free society from stodgy cultural traditions. If we're more politically-minded, we may idealistically work to liberate the populace from oppressive authoritarian rule. This is the house where dissenters conspire to overthrow aging institutions that no longer best serve the needs of the people.

Another facet of the Eleventh House supports the concept of group power, where people come together to advocate relevant social issues central to mass organization and control (that sounds like airy Saturn's influence in the collective sense). Even very outer-fringe Uranian groups can structure themselves

according to strict rules of behavior, showing unquestioned loyalty to the group's cause and obedience to that group's central leader (again, a Saturn response).

One Uranus/Saturn adage worth repeating is, "Freedom without responsibility is no freedom at all!" Not just this planetary combo, but even Aquarian energy needs to keep this in mind. Actually, the airy side of Saturn does share common denominators with Uranus: both have a sense of social consciousness, an interest in collective development, and a feeling of being separate from the herdlike masses (which appear unappealingly Neptunian or perhaps lunar to both these somewhat aloof planets). Each is eager to contribute something special and timely to society. They also share an interest in truth-seeking through scientific channels. But that's where most of the similarities end. Their style of achieving such goals is quite different. Their sense of clock-time is also clearly different. At least for Uranus, attachment to **anything—including** the intoxicating fruits of **success—is** to be avoided at all cost. Uranus likes the non-stick approach to living, where we don't possessively latch onto anything, and where nobody owns us.

GROUP VISION

In our Eleventh House, we constantly do a juggling act to cooperatively fit into large social frameworks without losing our unique identity. Leo, in the so-called Natural Wheel, ruling the Eleventh's opposite house—the **Fifth—also** underscores this polarity. When Uranus transits our Eleventh, we are more inclined to feel the influence of the "free-soul" qualities of this house, but not necessarily because of impulses emerging from our internal self. It is more likely that we start to connect with colorful individualists, or maybe we begin to network with open-minded, far-sighted groups that have an exciting vision about society's future. They provide new roles for us to try on, according to our willingness to re-invent ourselves.

Anything progressive in thought and action is more appealing to us during this transit, even if we are not quite ready to join a group. We attract unusual input from the world that may

fascinate us, yet we'll still need some time (Saturn-style) to digest this new **influence—especially** if we have a lot of fixity in our chart. Taurus, Leo, and Scorpio don't like too many new experiences quickly pushed at them. Still, it is likely that we are ready for progressive, social models to explore, considering the insights we've gained about our place in the world when Uranus was passing through our Tenth. Uranus wants us to assimilate these social experiences quickly and then bravely seek out even more challenging ones, especially those that allow us to further experiment within a group dynamic.

A WIDER SPECTRUM

Uranus is an impersonal planet now moving through an impersonal house. This suggests that life will not unfold itself in the next several years according to any personal, self-centered expectations. What we get to do here will not always directly or immediately benefit us (although independent, self-contained Uranus typically wants us to innovate for ourselves before getting others involved). Instead, the Eleventh House represents a complex of egos that need their share of attention and the right to be **heard—this** is "the voice of the people" house. Maybe this transit will get us in touch with any personal separatist attitudes that may have previously prevented us from sharing in the spirit of camaraderie. We are now developing greater individuality so that we can broadly and freely share ourselves with others. This will require an ego adjustment as Uranus picks only strong-willed, free souls to cross our path and help to alter our mindset.

Our consciousness may be raised by dealing with people from unfamiliar walks of life. Maybe we were even prejudiced about certain classes and types until now, when we have to rub shoulders with them in real life situations, perhaps in group settings, and find out **they're** not so strange after all. Or perhaps we discover they're strange in "good" ways. They're even more like us than we were led to believe by those who held influence over our mind in our early years. This transit, therefore, can be a time when negative, social images we've never questioned before are

shattered. We begin to realize that these biases are unfair and suppressive to others. Shattering such false images is an unexpected eye-opener for us, and we tend to quickly reform our thinking once we've had a direct encounter with real people who have been hurt by prejudicial stereotypes. Some of us may feel shocked by our intolerance over the years. It was easier and safer to go along with the opinions of the majority than it was to think for ourselves and stand apart from the crowd by boldly attacking social injustice. Now we learn more about how those unfairly targeted have always felt, and what we can do to **prevent** further social intolerances.

DON'T SIGN ME UP

Uranus, in my opinion, is not a joiner. It doesn't want to be just another member of the gang. It feels too different from others to allow itself to identify or merge with the group-mind. Much of the required, hard work that people do to support Eleventh House team projects and social causes comes from dedicated Saturn. Uranus initially sparks others to wake up and realize what has to be changed in the name of progress, but it doesn't wait around long enough or plod on as these social ideals slowly take shape and become accepted by the masses. That's because the masses assimilate change at a snail's pace.

Some of us undergoing this transit may become involved with associations and societies that spur our interest in the world's unexplored potential (even our own). However, we may not be completely ready to become fully committed participants. We'll show up at a group's monthly meeting when we feel the urge, not because of any sense of duty. Maybe we haven't always been like this, but it's probably how we choose to operate now (because Uranus in the Eleventh can signify a double-dose of the freedom theme). We may also hop from group to group, sampling all social options supporting alternative lifestyles and futuristic vision. (Gee, maybe we'll finally get to attend that local UFO club meeting we've been thinking about off and on, or even visit that holistic nudist camp during our next summer vacation!)

GOT TO HAVE FRIENDS

Although friendly alliances in less-personal group settings are part of the Eleventh House **experience—such** as with colleagues you network with at professional **conferences—friendships** of a more casual nature are also to be explored here. Unlike the Seventh, where our "best" friends, who know us intimately, are to be found, the **pals** we connect with in our Eleventh are better termed "acquaintances." With Uranus, we can be drawn to one-of-a-kind individualists precisely because they are so different from us and our social background. They find us equally unusual, with something stimulating to offer them, which could come as a surprise to us. Sometimes, colorful Uranian types we barely know throw big parties or social get-togethers where all types of people mingle. By a simple twist of fate, we get invited and thereby become exposed to an amazing assortment of free souls; a few of them find us interesting, and thus new and unusual friendships develop. Little do they know that some of us are in a transitional stage and are doing a lot of Uranian things for the very first time!

We'll have to be ready to circulate, however, for any of this to happen. No matter what our social history has been, we have an ability to attract others who can open our eyes to ways of thinking and living, usually in self-revelatory ways. This is especially so regarding our unlimited capacity to alter our lifestyle. With stress aspects involved, however, we'll need to be careful not to link up with people whose vision of an ideal tomorrow is too extreme; or with people whose underlying anger regarding society drives them to come up with radical solutions that suggest mental imbalance on their part. Anyone who comes off as too pushy, with a universal message that's too urgent in tone, is probably someone we should avoid (or, at least, curiously observe at arms-length). Basically, we only need a few scintillating friends to hang out with anyway, not political revolutionaries looking for other zealous comrades to help to overthrow systems they deem obsolete or hopelessly corrupt! However, a few of us who have been malcontent for a long time and who are disgusted

with mainstream society will want to politicize everything related to this Uranus transit. It's a different type of party, then, that we want to join.

HOPES AND WISHES?

The Eleventh House has traditionally been associated with our "hopes and wishes," a key phrase I've always found to be too vague. If I "hope" for a brand new car, is that an Eleventh House issue? If I "wish" for a pay raise at work, is this an Eleventh House yearning? Apparently not. Very little about the Eleventh supports exclusive self-interest. Here we learn that we are a dynamic part of a social matrix that has a collective mind of its own. Individual ego-desires are to fit into the greater needs of a group's will, which then enables community standards to be formulated and enforced (overriding individual self-will). This collective mind also unfolds unconsciously, as demonstrated by the emergence of new generational outlooks that disturb the status quo while they further reshape society. In the Eleventh, we foresee enlightened societal harmony as the goal to be reached, where betterment applies to all people and not just to ourselves.

From this perspective, hopes and wishes pertain to a futuristic blossoming of human potential. Uranus transiting this house helps us see far ahead into an ideal world of almost Utopian vision (maybe with a lot of snazzy, high-tech innovation thrown into the picture, because Uranus is quite interested in amazing inventions—sometimes even more so than in uplifting the human condition). Whether or not our current reality is ready for such a radical metamorphosis, at issue is our ability to be open to vast and progressive possibilities. Of course, the farther ahead we see, the more discontented we can be trying to live in the now, especially when Uranus makes transiting squares to our natal planets from this house.

Uranus enlightens very quickly, albeit abruptly. That famous Uranian sense of being zapped means everything in life is going to be perceived differently now that we're wide awake! We could run on more intuitional energy than ever before. The trouble is

that few are also timing in to our new wavelength. Patience with having in this seemingly thick-headed world and tolerance for its painfully timid approach to progress will be important during this transit. Otherwise, we may feel that we really do belong to a different galaxy of higher beings. Why aren't those UFO guys beaming us up by now, some of us may wonder, since we feel more ready than ever to leave this idiotic earthbound existence behind? Such feelings are less due to escapism than to our intellectual disgust with humankind's stupidity and stubborn resistance to knowing the Truth. Unfortunately, Uranus cannot stand dealing with chronic states of imperfection, human or otherwise. This explains why the socially discontented can get even more worked up during Uranus' transit of their Eleventh House.

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER?

We are going through a phase where our humanitarian urges are coming alive, maybe even reawakening. Our natal Uranus' house position might tell us what aspects of social reform interest us the most. This is now a time to put certain ideals into action, a time to be an activist on some level. Society may have convinced us that our youthful hopes of changing the world were the result of idealistic naivete. After all, we weren't full-fledged **adults—just** starry-eyed dreamers with a passion for peace and a simplistic vision of global tolerance. As we aged, the idea of getting on with the business of mundane living by producing something really useful to the material framework of society was drummed into us, while we sadly realized that the world was not yet ready to embrace a new age of love and fight.

Now, however, our old rebel spirit **reemerges**, even though we may be more grounded and pragmatic than in our earlier, free-spirited days. We've incorporated more Saturn-awareness due to the pressures of maturing (especially if we are over forty when this transit begins). The interpretation will be quite different if we are only fifteen, when Saturn also opposes Saturn, a time that sounds very rebellious and peer-focused. Anyway, maybe we won't win the

Nobel Peace Prize this time around, but in some way we can and should find outlets for constructive social participation. Perhaps we can volunteer our time and energy toward civic-minded causes or anything else that requires a crusading spirit. What community services that we believe in need our involvement, as long as they are not too bogged down by bureaucratic structures? We may find ourselves easily taking a controversial stand on current issues that divide the public. Uranus in the Eleventh means we can go out on a limb to promote or defend our principles. We may advocate things that frighten others.

Personal aspirations in general will change during this transit, as our long-term goals become less worldly. Our interest in the broader picture of a planet of great, human diversity can increase, leading us to conclude that universal cooperation between nations and their people needs to be high on the list of global priorities. We may support whatever organizations take a progressive stand on human rights, nature's rights, or whatever else helps ensure that humanity will evolve along more enlightened areas of thought and action. All in all, this is one Uranus transit that can enable us to look at life's universal issues very differently in the future.

URANUS/URANUS TRANSITS

DIFFERENT DRUMBEATS

When Uranus transits itself, we are dealing with *life cycles* that occur in everyone's chart at relatively the same chronological ages. I'm not going to interpret each and every possible Uranus/Uranus cycle, but there are four that stand out in my mind: the first square, the opposition, the second square, and the Uranus Return. The main thrust of these cycles revolves around confronting all things Uranian, especially on internal levels. These can be periods when we receive wake-up calls telling us to follow our path of freedom. Maybe we find ourselves rebelling against self-identifying labels that we've bought into in order to conform and be accepted by society. We've usually taken the safe

route rather than risk social rejection. During any one of these cycles, we may suddenly feel that those images are false and misleading. Our true self wants to break out in some fashion and make its individuality known. The environment is ready to provide a few shake-ups to match our altered, inner rhythms. Something's gotta give!

Technically, this is a transpersonal transit (Outer Planet to Outer Planet); therefore, a lot of it won't be under our conscious direction. This enables Uranus to introduce a wider range of unfamiliar experiences that we normally would not attempt to magnetize in our day-to-day situations. The Cosmos, working through our environment, will usually orchestrate how the message of liberation will be heard. People entering our lives shake us up in ways that help to bring greater self-expression. Situations force us to show **our** true colors. We may marvel at how alive and well we can feel, if we freely experiment with this rushing energy and don't waste time trying to resist the educational nature of such mind-altering change.

FIRST URANUS SQUARE URANUS (AGES 18–21)

The first Uranus/Uranus square is notable because it coincides with a time when most young people feel they have reached true adult **status—finally!—not** just in the eyes of their parents, but also in the eyes of society. Of course, nobody really gets to claim adulthood until after the first Saturn Return (ages 28-30); that is, *if they* pass the life exams given at that time. However, anyone who's almost twenty-one certainly doesn't want to hear that. This planet takes a little less than seven years to pass through a sign; therefore its first major tensional pattern happens after high school. (My first Uranus/Uranus square was, to the minute, just a month before my twentieth birthday. Although I was already studying the subject for a while, I took my first official class in astrology around that time and learned to calculate actual charts. As stated before, my natal Uranus is in my Third House of educational outlets.)

During this square phase, we envision that we'll have autonomy and be able to break free of parental rule, especially during our twenties. Any system that seems authoritarian is rejected. We assume that we now can do whatever we please, determine our own life approach as we see fit, experiment with jobs without feeling firmly committed to them (it's a restless period anyway), and basically keep all options open-ended. We also can and do formulate a few aspirations as we explore the structure of adult society.

We may even embrace the unknown with a sense of excitement. All future prospects become very attractive and compelling (or maybe nerve-racking, if we started off on the wrong foot with this transit). To get the most out of this thrusting phase of Uranus, we will need to be as educated as we can be, because this planet thrives on mental stimulation. We need to realize that our society is more willing to open the doors of opportunity for those possessing valuable knowledge. People who have had inadequate schooling may not feel this to be a liberating, freedom-oriented period, but instead one where stability and economic survival become paramount, making circumstances feel more Saturnian. Indeed, Saturn squares our Saturn around the time of our first Uranus square. Our direction feels uncertain during this Uranus/Uranus phase, and we are not too sure how many "adult" values we want to adopt (such a double Uranus influence could suggest emphasized rebellion and defiance).

This is a cycle that can start off as difficult for those who already had a tough time with authority during the mid-teen angst and resentment generated by Saturn opposing Saturn (a rebel period also fed by transiting Uranus sextile itself). However, with both Uranus and Saturn simultaneously squaring their natal positions, clashes with family or community values can erupt. Our urge to break away from our past then becomes too undisciplined to be handled in a productive manner. Some of us learn the hard way that there are many parental substitutes in the world who do not love us, but who are willing and able to stop us in our tracks when we run wild. In actuality, the number of those who get in trouble with the law during this cycle is relatively low. Still, for those criminally inclined, this becomes a vulnerable period.

Breaking society's rules of conduct can have serious legal consequences (Saturn square Saturn makes sure of that).

As we reach our mid-twenties, transiting Uranus trines **Uranus**—a time when we may have the clarity we need to foster a workable life vision. At least the transiting Uranus square gives us the guts to leave behind our childhood and the nest our parents have created, and launch into a bigger and sometimes anxiety-inducing world, where we can learn more about who we really are as individuals.

URANUS OPPOSING URANUS (DURING OUR MID-LIFE CRISIS)

This cycle occurs as early as our late thirties. It is one of the **hallmarks** of our infamous "mid-life crisis" phase and one that most astrologers show a keen interest in exploring. This transit describes those facets of our mid-life years that are marked by an urgent restlessness to bring something or someone fresh into our stable but monotonous life patterns. Up until then, we may have played out an orderly social role that now feels too tightly defined and wrong for us. We need space to breathe again while recovering lost parts of our individuality. We may even try to revive the youthful gusto for adventurous living we may have felt during our **Uranus/Uranus square**—which is not always a smart idea. The daily grind with all of its mounting responsibilities has taken over how we have shaped our identity, and now we sense that it's time for some sort of internal revolution. A reordering of very personal priorities is due.

We first need to define where we seem to be the most trapped. This transit could be a timely turning-point of self-awakening, during which we can feel a resurgence of the spirit of experimentation. It can symbolize a second adolescence phase, where our freedom-craving, rule-breaking ways turn some of us into "teenagers" who thumb our nose at the conventions of "proper" **adult** conduct. Some of us may be tempted to pull out and wear our bell-bottomed pants again, once we lose about twenty pounds! We feel a strong urge to let adventure have its way with us, an

adventure that defies logic at times and that allows us to be a bit wild and crazy (less so if our natal Saturn has a dominant presence in our chart, or if we are loaded with earth placements and/or much natal fixity).

Usually, other people help to set this spark-flying cycle in motion. Their changing situations become catalysts for how we repattern our lives. Maybe a spouse wants to leave us, something we dread. Perhaps, after a destabilizing divorce, we realize we have gladly outgrown much of what our marriage was based upon, and yet it took our partner's unrest and pressing urge to break loose to get the ball of freedom rolling. Within time, we realize that we are becoming our true selves without that union. This is not something easily embraced, but that's why this transit's called an opposition: we oppose it until we've had time to adjust to the new life forces entering our world.

On the other hand, sometimes those of us committed to the single life have an unforeseen change of heart and suddenly leap into a relationship (even marriage) with a very special individual whom we never dreamed of meeting. During this unpredictable period, wallflowers may blossom, sexual hot-shots fizzle out, and, in general, reversals of status occur that surprise everyone. If not due to another person, then the environment at large forces change upon us in ways that accelerate our growth. While this period is usually called a "crisis," it's really a turning point that allows us a greater range of self-expression as we move into the second half of our lives. The double dose of Uranus symbolism means that the courage to push forward is needed, even when mixed feelings split us apart in ways that make us crazy and unhinged for the moment.

SECOND URANUS SQUARE URANUS (AGES 59-65)

The theme of breaking away from the yoke of authority is here repeated, except we're not restless teens anymore, innocently eager to explore the adult world of freedom. We now know that the adult world has built-in limitations as part of its fundamental

reality, and most of us have accepted that. Who or what is to take on the role of the authority we oppose at this point is less clearly defined. Age sixty-five rings a bell, because this is legally (at least in America) when workers can begin their retirement years and collect their Social Security checks. Retirement could be acknowledged as a time of shock for many of us, even though we may have claimed to look forward to it. At best, it's a time to manifest idealistic plans by which we expect to live out the remainder of our lives. However, such ideals often do not match up with reality at this time, something which generates the full tension of the square.

This period should be freedom oriented, giving well-deserved breaks from routine, as well as allowing us to pursue new areas and cover fresh territory with a greater sense of leisure. Unfortunately, few in this culture are prepared for such a dose of "freedom." Instead, some of us may feel cut-off from the accustomed rhythms of society due to the abrupt change in our daily pattern. Obviously, those of us who have long ago made alterations by which we became "free agents" on a professional basis are less apt to feel that the rug's been pulled out from under us because, technically, we do not have to prepare to retire at this time. No company is formally terminating our services.

However, for the majority who have followed the standard straight-and-narrow path toward success within established parameters, this period can sometimes mark a time of inner chaos and even alienation. It all depends on the extent of our inner discoveries during our Uranus opposing Uranus phase. The more self-knowing we have become, the more hopeful this square phase. Otherwise, disorientation can take place along with anger and bitterness, as we feel we're being "put out to pasture" against our will. Many can feel impotent under these conditions (like the fate that awaited mythological Uranus). Feeling non-effectual on the social level, we can withdraw altogether and resign ourselves to an unsatisfying final chapter of life.

Astrologers are not accustomed to thinking of this dynamic Uranus phase in such bleak terms. However, this can be how a sudden change of social status impacts some of us at this time.

Still, even for those of us depressed or distressed, much understanding of the meaning of our total life process can flash before our eyes. This can be an insightful time for all undergoing this cycle. Much depends on what we are becoming awakened to. Our environment also offers outlets to us that can get us out of our doldrums if we are willing to do a little exploring.

URANUS RETURN (AGES 82-84)

Until recently, the Uranus Return was an astrological oddity, in that only a small percentage of people ever lived long enough to experience it. Most were probably recluses by then, so astrologers never got to know directly what was really going on during this life cycle. In the past several decades, however, it's become obvious that many folks are living longer and with greater vitality even at advanced ages; they are not necessarily confined to their homes as once was the case. A few can even be found having a blast with the slot machines in Atlantic City. (Heck, even aging Leos just wanna have fun!)

This is good news for Uranus, which always has an easier time working with live-wires who are ready for anything than those dead-beats who aren't. The biggest obstacle at this juncture, however, is our darn old physical body (as Saturn now claims complete control, almost with a vengeance, over the body's continued decline and eventual demise). Assuming we will live this long, what can we expect? Believe it or not, there is still room for both excitement (within reason) and further self-discovery (even if we never do make it to the gambling casinos).

The Uranus Return seems to mark a symbolic climax for our soul's development. We have officially completed our assignment on Earth regarding our mundane "contract" with society and the roles we felt somewhat roped into playing (for whatever circumstantial reasons). A lot of people become very bitter about the roles they've had to play long before they reach age eighty-four (perhaps the bad feelings kick in around the retirement years). By our mid-eighties, there's not much more we can extract and use from our social environment that will help us to grow further. Now our

challenge lies in how we embark on our inner journey in consciousness, something that will require a greater detachment from direct involvement with worldly matters. Our physical body also shows signs of wanting to withdraw from the frenetic stimuli of our outer surroundings.

However, even if we are to be confined to our home, thank goodness we still have the world at our fingertips via our TVs remote control or the Internet. We certainly won't have to suffer the isolation that some of us did as elderly shut-ins in dreary past lives. Electronic and digital media stimulation will be our constant companion if we wish. Uranus will make sure our brain remains active and still eager for new mental excitement. It does boggle the mind, however, to think of those **Pluto-in-Leo** oldsters who'll still be rocking and bopping during their Uranus Return to their scratchy Rolling Stones and Jefferson Airplane albums, assuming their hearing isn't totally shot by then!

Ideally, we'd get the most out of this life cycle if we didn't have to concern ourselves with mundane responsibilities, some of which have now become either burdensome or uninteresting to us. We wish to be free of these tedious tasks and instead give our mind permission to explore whatever interests it. For some of us, this can mean a time of mental disorientation (we've also had Neptune opposing Neptune just before our Uranus Return). I suspect that a way to prevent this is to remain constantly flexible, adaptable, and unshockable. After all, we've witnessed a lot about society during almost a century of living. With the right amount of detachment (not to be confused with withdrawal), we can learn to de-emphasize our emotional reactions to all that's constantly happening beyond our control around us. Curiosity about life will keep us sharp and alert. It is clear by now that we are only *in* the world, not of it!

URANUS TRANSITING THE TWELFTH HOUSE

BETTER TO GIVE

Traditionally, the Twelfth House has been associated with dungeons, prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, asylums, and other places of physical confinement for disfunctional people. At first, it would seem that Uranus transiting the Twelfth would have a miserable time with this constant threat of being imprisoned on some level. In addition, it's a planet that possesses "dangerous" qualities that conventional society would find objectionable, and therefore punishable by solitary confinement or exile. Luckily, Uranus isn't much into either self-pity or scapegoat-identification, two things that could immobilize us in this ego-deflating house. Uranus, not easily undone by social condemnation, would rather go down in flames as a clear-eyed heretic than to turn its back on its principles and be absorbed by a corrupt System it deems a *real* source of danger.

Generally, the Twelfth seems to be more troublesome regarding issues totally rooted in selfish, worldly experience. It's simple: you rob a bank in defiance of society's set rules of conduct, and you land in the slammer for a long **stretch—stealing** other people's money is a good example of a selfish worldly desire. Those

who only want to take from the world and never give back to society will suffer soul-eroding predicaments in this house. Although Uranus typically is less involved in the trappings of desire and greed, its rebellious streak can nonetheless jeopardize its cherished freedom by outraging authority. Uranus doesn't want to give in to the will of society and, therefore, can get itself booted out of general **membership**—with all privileges suddenly revoked. Yet this is also a house where we can, in good faith, surrender our "all" to a higher guiding **power**—whether it be the Divine or a great social cause. However, surrendering is not something Uranus (or Pluto) does easily. The potential for losing one's individuality altogether in the process also bothers **Uranus**—a planet that's not going to jump into the Twelfth House's melting pot willingly. However, in this house, if so desired, Uranus can turn invisible and de-emphasize what makes it stand out from a crowd and become the target of ridicule (or hate mail).

BEYOND THIS WORLD

The Twelfth is associated with watery Pisces and Neptune (examples of Principle Twelve). Therefore, selfless activity, working for a common universal cause, realizing the oneness of all people, and being empathetic to the struggle of the human condition on Earth are all to be encouraged. This is a very transcendental house (with its underlying theme of soul-liberation). Here we eventually learn to safely contact and merge with "higher" invisible realms of existence. All that's required is the right inner preparation and motive. The Twelfth House doesn't focus on the tangible results of materialistic ambitions. In addition, this is where the Unconscious (both its personal and collective facets) likes to hang out, and to blow our mind every so often with its otherworldly imagery and its constant supply of potent archetypal energies.

Uranus is not particularly preoccupied with physical structure or with dense material expression, so we may find that now we can almost boundlessly soar to greater heights of mental

exploration. Imagination is given free reign to unfold its spirit-empowering visions, helping our consciousness to expand quickly. However, we'll need to be careful not to encourage such unfolding from occurring too rapidly and without sufficient grounding on our part. In general, the Twelfth is much less confining when we creatively express ourselves on its abstract levels. What we can paint here on our canvas is unlimited. However, things can get tricky when we try to pour incarnate energy into physical forms and stable structures. Think of the Twelfth as the wondrous Land of Virtual Reality. Once computer programmers enable us to affordably enter total digital or holographic realms, a whole new universe of Twelfth-House activity will open up for us. Expect Uranus to play a hugely innovative role here, especially during its passage through Aquarius and Pisces.

GHOST BUSTING

The Twelfth is also seen as a house where fantasies can warp our perceptions. With Uranus mismanaged, we could find ourselves willing to reinvent reality to suit our **unrealistic** yearnings, especially when Uranus conjuncts a natal Twelfth House planet that may already have a history of tricking itself into believing its illusions. Things could get bizarre when Uranus produces chaos in this surrealistic realm known for its ever-shifting landscapes. Clinging to illusions eventually backfires, because Uranus doesn't want to be part of any self-induced fraudulent situation. It will, instead, insist on arming itself with the harsh and unrelenting light of Truth. Still, it's tempting for some of us to think our ticket to unconditional freedom may involve ignoring life's limitations by abandoning common sense in favor of rebellious **escapism**—usually in the form of quick thrills and risky highs. Our **head-strong** impulses here can lead to our self-unraveling, usually through out-of-the-ordinary circumstantial means.

The inner ghosts of our past that psychologically haunt us can be found wandering through the dark chambers of our Twelfth. If these trapped internal elements still try to slowly drain life out of us in order to survive, Uranus can play the role of an **exorcist**—not

in the ritualistic religious sense, of course, but in terms of stimulating us to make a clean break from such disturbing elements of our past. The problem is that living in the outer world and following its rules of behavior do not prepare us to face a troubled inner world that now may have to be opened up and reviewed.

During the many years this transit is in effect, the outer world knows nothing about the upheavals we may undergo. Our psycho-explosions in consciousness and the resultant breakdowns are internal and private for the most part. If anything, outer situations can provoke odd and unexpected responses that set off chain reactions concerning buried memories that need to be dislodged. As discomfiting as this can be, Uranus tries to convince us that it's for the best. The past is not to hold us back any longer. We are going to experience some big breakthroughs regarding our identity when Uranus transits our First, but this Twelfth House transit prepares us by first sweeping away unhealthy, spirit-clogging emotional debris. The health of our soul is at stake.

MISSION NOT SO IMPOSSIBLE

Uranus behaves a bit like Pluto in this house, in that its mission is to shatter illusions, break up long-term hang-ups, dispel phobias, and, in general, help us to more clearly evaluate the most subjectively damaging weak-links in our psychology. Negative attitudes that have remained hidden, insidiously working behind-the-scenes, may now become identified and eliminated. Any crisis that occurs serves as an effective catalyst, helping us to expose even deeply entrenched complexes. Uranus would usually be transiting a planet during such times (particularly a Twelfth-House planet), and that planet would play into the dynamics of a Uranian release from the inner suffering our psychological bondage has created. In this respect, Uranus assists in healing old inner wounds (although Uranus itself is no comforting healer or redeemer—that's Neptune).

Typically, when any planet goes through our Twelfth, we feel we are all alone in experiencing the challenges of that planet, for

better or worse. We assume no one will really understand what we are going through regarding that transiting planet and the natal planets it aspects. Some of this is because, with our inclination to internalize conditions, we are not giving others clear signals telling them that we need their help and support. We're not reaching out to people. How can we expect anyone or everyone to read our minds and sensitively tap into our unspoken needs? Unconsciously, we create conditions that force us to fall back on our hidden resources (our Twelfth House assets). However, this can be a very good thing for us to do in the long run.

Uranus can at least awaken us to those hidden resources. Sometimes, the sign on this house's cusp gives additional clues. Even in the Twelfth, Uranus is an activist at work trying to spark us to energize those back-up strengths normally not used in our daily waking state. Sometimes this means turning on our psychic skills and allowing intuitive energy to flow freely without too much logical analysis getting in the way. Remember, we're in Neptune's realm now, where boundaries in consciousness are **non-existent**—if only we would believe this to be so. This constructive inner activity prepares us for our next astounding Uranian **adventure**—Uranus crossing over our Ascendant. How successful we are in altering our identity or in revamping our self-image depends a lot on what we do with our Uranus in the Twelfth opportunities for self-illumination. For those of us willing to let go of all that weighs our soul down, there is much inner light here to be channeled into Uranian ways of being.

ALL WE NEED IS LOVE

Uranus probably wonders "what's love got to do with it?"—especially if it's a mushy, sentimental, **hearts-a-fluttering** kind of love. Erotic love is not what Uranus understands very well, but it can work with more inclusive *agape love*—the altruistic love for humankind. Remember, with this planet, the more that a concept can be applied on a wide and impersonal basis, the more Uranus' interest in piqued (as long as Uranus is itself not bound by such a concept)! Uranus has little trouble seeing itself as a humane

light-bearer, but it will empathetically reject being seen as a savior to be exalted and worshiped. Yet a common pitfall in our Twelfth is to look for such saviors to indiscriminately follow and adore, at the expense of losing our identity. Uranus wants us to avoid such glorification, whether we are attempting to do the savior act or the devotee role. Uranian spirituality likes to give others the tools needed to be more godlike themselves (as shown by the myth of the Uranian enlightener Prometheus, who **rebel-**liously stole **fire**—jealously guarded by the head god **Zeus**—to then give to humanity). Uranus' is a more clear-headed, democratic approach that doesn't lend itself to devotionism.

Perhaps one potential Uranian breakthrough in consciousness is to realize how our inflexibility creates separative conditions in our lives. While we may enjoy being unlike anyone else, we could also suffer unnecessary isolation due to our reluctance to blend into the broad social mix symbolized in this house (here's where all of humanity comes together, devoid of social class distinctions). We may discover that we harbor unconscious, elitist attitudes that have kept us from feeling at one with others. Maybe we were born with Uranus square our Sun or our **Mars**—two astrological signatures that may suggest we don't feel we have a lot in common with the masses but are glad we're independent, one-of-a-kind types.

In this instance, Uranus can either intensify our self-perception, so that we experience a greater sense of remoteness and alienation, *or* Uranus says we're due for a major melt-down of such aloof **individualism**—one that allows us to move from cold, abstract intellectualism to warmer and deeper emotional human engagement. This becomes a breakthrough for the heart and a triumph over artificial social barriers produced by mind and will. By learning the meaning of Twelfth-House love, our fundamental loneliness may thus be dissolved, which then becomes our gift to ourselves for loving others on a soul level.

CRAZY CLOSET

On a lighter note, the Twelfth has often been likened to our psyche's closet, where we store away all sorts of eccentric and even anti-social things about ourselves that we don't care to have lying about on our coffee table in plain view. Others are not permitted, especially in public situations, to easily observe these less-obvious qualities we own (we're afraid the world won't accept our closeted traits and urges). Maybe we like to vacuum the house while in the nude in the middle of the night with Rachmaninoff playing in the background. It's an odd pleasure, we realize, but it's also none of anyone else's business, now is it? Our 3:00 A.M. cleaning ritual becomes a secret Twelfth-House issue (only if we close our drapes, that is, to avoid encouraging someone else's little nighttime Twelfth-House ritual involving binoculars). Maybe some of us like to cross-dress and slip out after sundown to window-shop at the mall just for the thrill of it. That could end up being someone else's business if we eventually get caught using the wrong public restroom, but our festive masquerade feels very Twelfth House-ish, and maybe becomes almost an out-of-our-body experience for some of us. Therefore, this becomes a pure Twelfth House escapade.

When Uranus enters this house, our secret self-expression enjoyed behind the scenes can be very unusual indeed, what some love to call kinky. We unleash a wilder part of ourselves that the public would either probably frown on or be utterly amazed by. At least that's how we see it and why we hide it. However, with Uranus taking a walk on the wild side, perhaps we are learning to associate inner liberation with the urge to expose some of our guarded, private interests. Of course, with the wrong transit in full swing (like Uranus square our natal Neptune), such exposure can lead to an overnight scandal. Uranus can shock people better and faster than any other planet! We'll need to analyze our situation and determine if it's worth the risk to "come out of the closet" just to feel freer doing what we've been happily indulging in our underground world for so long without a hitch. Sometimes what

we've been hiding is nothing more racy than a yen for karaoke performances in swank retro lounges, or maybe we want to master conscious astral travel and visit the actual planet Pluto. The world may not understand our uncommon needs, but the Twelfth House is surely not going to stop us from exploring them as long as we're discreet. The problem here is that Uranus is seldom discreet, and there will always be plenty of grim Saturnians waiting to catch us in the "shocking" act of finally being ourselves.

ROMANCING THE SOURCE

In general, Uranus is closing a cycle of our experiences with the freedom urge before starting up on its exploratory mission again in the First. In the Twelfth, we may tap into the loving source of our spiritual origin, a dimension where limitations and confinements become unreal. We can't stay connected to this source of ultimate being forever because we have more work to do (that is, as long as we're in this earthly body and haven't paid our **end-of-the-month** bills yet). Our soul's vast and unlimited potential can be sensed in brief but deep flashes of Uranian insight or in electrifying visions of startling **clarity**—**but** only when we learn to stop putting unnecessary hurdles in our path to higher consciousness. Self-love and empathy for humanity can carry us far and wide on our journey of self-discovery. Let's not be afraid to mentally go where Uranus and the inner spiritual fires of Prometheus take us!

URANUS/NEPTUNE TRANSITS

SNAP OUT OF IT

Here is a case, as with Uranus/Pluto, of two Outer Planets connecting. This becomes generational, in that many will experience these same transits at the same time. However, even if others are simultaneously having transiting Uranus aspect their Neptune, that doesn't make this pattern any less personal or relevant for us. This transit is not just some collective challenge in the impersonal

world. It is also a force of inner awakening that can be profound in nature, although often too subtle to observe on the everyday surface of a busy, mundane life.

Actually, Uranus would love to tackle the job of straightening out poor **“lost-in-space”** Neptune (ah, but just wait until it's Neptune's turn to do a magical make-over on cocksure Uranus)! Uranus is now in a position to eye-ball how well we have processed our Neptunian potential up to this point. It's reviewing this matter with cool objectivity and emotional detachment, two things Neptune sorely lacks. Think of Neptune as a beautiful soap bubble, with its swirling colors and its ability to float effortlessly in the air. Then think of Uranus as a huge, sharp, gleaming straight pin suddenly coming out of nowhere to prick that iridescent bubble—**pop!** This is Uranus' basic role at this time: to burst our own self-created bubbles of illusion or those set up by our environment that lull us into a false sense of serenity, security, or complacency.

DUMBSTRUCK

When any bubble of long-held idealism bursts, a confusing period of disillusionment and sadness can occur, perhaps including a slump of depression. If transiting Saturn was aspecting Neptune, this feeling of being down in the dumps could become prolonged, with signs of sinking disappointment more evident. With Uranus, however, nothing is allowed to drag on hopelessly, not even the shock of reality's cold water splashed in our face. Therefore, with a Uranus/Neptune transit, we can feel stunned and truly bewildered whenever we find our faith and trust in somebody or something has been misplaced. A belief system, especially one that has been a blind spot for us, can break down and dissolve as new and contradictory information is revealed. Unrealistic dreams we have hung on to suddenly go up in smoke as outer events beyond our control insist that we deal with uncompromising realities. Usually, a third personal planet is involved in the action when situations start turning out emotionally weird like **this—is** it our Moon or maybe our Venus? The more our personal planets are tied into this transit, the greater the impact it has on us. This goes for all Outer Planet to Outer Planet transits.

A FATE ATTACK

Sometimes our high-minded objectives are inexplicably forced to come to an abrupt end. (An aspiring ballerina badly breaks both legs in a freak car accident and ends a promising career; little does she know that years later, at a time when she's devoted to writing epic poetry to help assuage her wounded spirit, she'll win a Pulitzer Prize for her inspiring work.) Many disturbing Uranus/Neptune incidents can seem tragic and grossly unfair at the time. We seem to be innocently caught up in something set into turbulent motion by people we don't even know, or by some force of nature we cannot control. These events also make little sense to those of us who try to figure out such Neptunian predicaments logically and rationally. It won't work, because this is a transiting planet that can baffle us (Uranus) aspecting a planet that often confuses us (Neptune). Together, both generate states of impermanence, the kind that get earth signs panicky and water signs hysterical. Nothing remains stable and secure, as a strange fate enters our lives and forces on us an entirely new perspective.

Of course, it can turn out to be a wonderful kind of fate that shatters our less worthy dreams and instead opens doors of awesome promise. However, both planets represent a consciousness that is little concerned with satisfying our ego demands (the more self-centered our desires, the less workable the end-results). Deeper soul-gratification can be our outcome when launching humanitarian projects designed for the betterment of **all—that's** quite a tall order for most people who don't have a social destiny similar to that of Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Jr., or Gandhi.

THAT VISION THING

So, how else can we experience transiting Uranus aspecting Neptune, short of being stuck in a sea side vacation spot where **El** Nino's wreaking havoc? Neptune's natal house might help us to figure out where we can refocus ourselves, or maybe even effectively establish a clear focus for the very first time. Neptune can

naturally show where our life situations and our attitudes remain chronically fuzzy and ill-defined. Nonetheless, this is where a new and better-realized dream is to emerge. The house where Uranus transits is also important, giving us needed here-and-now clues. Uranus is the trigger; therefore, something from our current life experience is to stimulate our inner development in such a way that new Neptunian awarenesses are able to surface more freely.

This is a process similar to all transiting planets: the transiting planet provides the outer conditions needed to stimulate the growth of the natal planet contacted. In our case, Uranus is bringing new people and conditions into our life to either enhance our Neptunian visions (if our ideals are on the right track and are in harmony with practical realities), or unexpectedly turn our world upside down abruptly, if we've been losing touch with ourselves for too long, stumbling down the wrong Neptunian paths.

Visions we have at this time are filled with clarity and a sense of urgency, but they may lack practical current application. Still, both planets are eager to open the vault of heaven long enough to capture numinous ideas of great universal import. Perhaps what we envision is not yet supposed to manifest in concrete terms. We'll have to simply enjoy our insights, with the knowledge that these possibilities may someday have their chance in a future world ready for such transformation. Nevertheless, when these two planets come together, divine discontent results as we see things way ahead of their destined time to unfold. Such is the fate of visionaries plagued by the impatience that their out-of-the-ordinary passions create.

COMING CLEAN

Do we have deep, dark, self-destructive secrets? That's as much a Neptunian issue as it is a Plutonian theme. Uranus doesn't want to read our laundry list of excuses (abuses that were done to us or by us in past lives or in this one). Uranus just wants this nightmare to end now, before we get further pulled down into our darkness and start taking hostages with us. (Neptune in trouble typically entangles others in its sticky web.) I sound a bit dramatic here

but, even in less serious predicaments, Neptune draws people into situations that sometimes add to the confusion. It is this complication that Uranus tries to sidestep. Because both planets relate to the workings of the unconscious, we certainly do not feel that we are able to manipulate matters at the moment or manage events. They just happen. We simply have to deal with them squarely, and perhaps struggle to keep ourselves conscious about the odd dynamics at play.

Uranus will not allow our escapism to succeed should we get further caught up in delusion. What can happen, and probably should happen, is that we finally make major emotional **break-throughs** with ourselves, and thereby put a halt to any further inner torment. Uranus short-circuits this self-destructive energy. Life gives us a good shaking, snapping us out of our trance. We need to redeem ourselves on some level, and Uranus offers us a key to unlock the dungeon cell and walk out into the bright light. Spiritual awakenings, perhaps meaningful to us and no one else, can occur during these transits. This can be an exceptional time to feel alive and well, and in tune with our spiritual essence. After all, both Uranus and Neptune are not very worldly planets. They have more transcendent goals in mind. First, though, we'll have to come clean regarding our energy-sucking, self-deceptive ways of dealing with others.

UFO ALERT?

Some of us might wait for some stunningly otherworldly event to happen in our lives, like being abducted by aliens and taken aboard the mothership. Perhaps we're ready for something equally dramatic to come into our world that can remove us from everything that has become tediously familiar and banal. This transit could provide an escape hatch from the all-too-ordinary patterns of practical living. Although UFO aliens may not be levitating us out of our bed each night at 2:30 A.M., there's probably a part of ourselves that wishes to be teleported to fantastical realms of sensory wonder. We suddenly might have a hankering for whatever we deem to be of rare and sometimes unappreciated beauty.

Why not channel this desire into art or music in ways most accessible to us? Our spirit longs for aesthetically captivating stimulation at this time. Maybe we can't play piano, but we can buy a few CDs of Vladimir Horowitz doing his finger-magic on the keyboard. We can also visit local museums and galleries more often to whet our appetite for uncommon artistic visions. Even taking up photography or film-making, and learning about creating special effects, could prove exciting during this transit. The key thing is to break away from our safe perceptions about the world in ways that enrich our soul. Most of our daily routines just can't take us to **Uranus/Neptune** levels (unless you count the frenetic chaos of Los Angeles rush-hour traffic, but that's certainly not an inspiring manifestation). A Uranus sextile or trine can stir our imagination in fruitful ways, even though we find ourselves leaning toward the unusual in our taste. With more frictional aspects, both planets become exaggerated in expression and our visions can turn truly bizarre, a la Salvador Dali.

THE DEEP END

If a few of us are already spiraling downward in the grip of drug addiction or alcoholism, these transits unravel our structure even further. We could be flirting with madness as well, where the little green men we see are strictly those that our stressed-out imagination and paranoia have created. We may feel we have strong reasons to suddenly distrust the world. Our inner radar may mistakenly tell us we are being betrayed by others (most so with an agitating Uranus square or opposition). Darker fears can seize us, and our instinct is to break away from whatever we feel has trapped us. Neptune can respond by inviting further psychological terrors, which lead to oblivion. Barely alive and definitely not well, we'll need emergency measures to keep us from extinguishing our life force altogether. Admittedly, this is an extreme scenario that few will undergo.

Even in less drastic predicaments, we can suffer a rapid deterioration of psychological boundaries that have held us together in the past. Becoming unglued opens doors to strange and unsettling perceptions, keeping us in an unstable, unworkable state of

mind. We'll need to study what our natal and transiting Saturn (our urge to reglue what's broken) are doing at this time. We'll need to draw extra ego-strength from Saturn and other grounding chart factors also in operation. The scary features of the deep end do not await those who have already plumbed their depths carefully without fear and denial.

FOG LIFTING

If we keep in mind that Uranus demands clarity, not fogginess, plus seeks to blast away at deception, we may better attempt to fulfill our Neptunian needs with a dose of **self-honesty**. We'll need to carefully evaluate those who suddenly enter our world and present us with their techniques of enlightenment. We especially need to beware of spiritual hype, or overblown promises of instant cures. No one can provide us with the sudden miracles that we may seek at this time, especially if we haven't done the inner work that real transformation requires.

However, by turning within and listening to our inner voice, we can awaken our own intuitive gifts and healing powers, which then help to restore our faith in our spiritual identity. Uranus wants us to be enlightened, but with our ego-integration intact. We are not to passively and totally surrender our selfhood to anyone else at this time (a typical Neptune trap) no matter what is being promised as our ultimate reward for obedience. To do so would risk inner upheavals and a sense of being completely undermined down the road, when our eyes finally open and we see the damage we've allowed to be done to us. To stay focused during this transit is to stay awake and clear while we enable our special dreams to unfold.

THE LONG WAY HOME

Well, it's been quite a while since we first rocketed away to the far-flung reaches of vast inner space. Not surprisingly, we failed to keep from coming down with attacks of those rare states of mind the Saturnians at Control Central warned us **about—and** now they want to put us through a battery of reality tests to find out why! It was tricky navigating through alien force fields that awaited us in the depths of our **unconscious—especially** when having to adjust to the effects of Uranus' dramatic tilting of our mind's axis. We made the best of it and even sometimes the worst of **it—but** we finally emerged as individualists with much more courage and self-reliance than ever.

However, one bittersweet realization we have after undergoing a few successful Uranian transits is that we really can't go home again, at least not back home to our original state of self-ignorance where we once felt safe in a sheltered world of minimal challenge and risk. Feeling safe was often more important to us than was feeling alive and well. This previous state of mind and heart may now no longer exist, and it would be spiritual suicide to attempt to return to any such psychological place of self-limitation.

Unfortunately, there may be people we still love who desperately want us to come back to **our** former levels of awareness so

that we may permanently resettle ourselves there. They still can't figure out why we ever wanted to leave behind comforting familiarity to venture off into an unknown future of uncertainty. Some people didn't realize how soul-suffocating our old patterns were for us. These people were baffled and skeptical when we made a few radical but positive lifestyle changes (at least *we* thought they were positive). Our bold actions scared them, and their adverse reactions to our plans for greater personal freedom proved equally unsettling to us. Still, we felt driven to do what we had to do even when we weren't sure where it would all lead. Uranus guided our unfamiliar path more protectively than anyone realized or appreciated at the time. This we will know to be true after many years have passed and we more fully appreciate the **break-throughs** we have made with ourselves.

Once Uranus has altered our **consciousness**—and usually it's a lasting **alteration**—we can no longer accept the confinement of old frameworks of societal and familial conformity. We now wield greater power to create more of the self we are meant to be, our soul's unique unfoldment of who we are. However, this process often invites a certain loneliness, because now we may observe our prior **background**—and all the conditioning factors **entailed**—with the detachment of an "outsider." Some of us can't comfortably return to our roots and blindly fit in with our family's natural rhythms as perhaps we once pretended we could. A few of us may now be labeled "black sheep" as a result, or else we're just called the "eccentrics" of the community.

If we are truly becoming enlightened in a Uranian way, we'll find ourselves more able to accept the various levels of consciousness of those we know and love (especially those close to us who are trapped in negative Saturnian and Martian states of awareness; maybe we, too, were operating on those levels once). Such people may not have a clue about us these days, but we seem to understand them and their motivations quite well. Our need for kinship now becomes better met by different individuals from broader worlds of possibility. As we begin to recognize universal levels of human connection, we understand the human race to be one big cosmic family. Still, it can sadden us to realize that people

we grew up with, or others in our past with whom we've shared intimacy, are potentially those who least understand who we really are now.

The long way home to our real Self is a path that can lead us to great inner rewards. Our earned enlightenment cannot be taken away by those skeptics and pessimists who doubt the depth and sincerity of our inner changes. It is not easy to obtain these new awarenesses. Any commitment to authentic living requires bravery and determination. Ideally, Uranus will no longer seem like an unearthly, alien force from some galaxy many light years away. Let's all learn to develop Uranian energy in highly personal ways that will feel quite natural to us.

I hope this book has allowed you to consider the benefits that can be gained by openly embracing and identifying with at least some of the principles of Uranus. We can't afford to sit back and view this planet as strictly an impersonal, generational force that only indirectly has an impact on our lives. Twenty-first Century Astrology will further support the concept that all the Outer Planets are becoming even more personalized expressions of our being because, individually, we are already clearly learning to assimilate their energies in more conscious, **self-directed** ways.

It seems that a strong, well-formed, resilient ego best supports our safe passage through the realms of awareness symbolized by Uranus. Rigidity and selfishness mixed with Uranian energy create tremendous problems, the kind that invite distorted self-concepts and malcontent behavior. This is why ego-adaptability is the finest tool we can use to employ Uranian principles in our lives. Also, let's not forget to approach life with an offbeat Uranian sense of humor, because this helps make much of the duller, day-to-day routines of practical reality more tolerable. Saturn will simply have to adjust!

Well, I hope you have enjoyed reading Volume One of my *Alive and Well* trilogy (after all, you made it all the way to the end of this book)! The next stop on this cosmic safari takes us to Volume **Two—*Alive and Well with Neptune***—where we get to deep-sea dive into the quiet depths of our psyche so that we can explore the

more fluid and enchanted worlds of our unconscious landscape. Then it's on to Volume **Three**—*Alive and Well with Pluto*—where we plunge into the psyche's volcanic underworld to find hidden treasures that can renew our soul and revolutionize our life. Believe me, the journey only gets more fascinating!

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